



BOROUGH OF BEDFORD



# Annual Report

ON THE

# HEALTH OF BEDFORD

FOR THE YEAR

1961





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BY

C. L. SHARP, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

*together with the Report of*

E. AVISON, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

Telephone Nos.:  
Bedford 68777 and 2261.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
4 GOLDINGTON ROAD,  
BEDFORD.  
September, 1962.

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR,  
ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

No major health problems arose during 1961.

A useful start was made on the problems of the handicapped and there is a special section on this in the report, though it is pertinent to point out that the register of persons in the general classes, i.e. excluding deaf and blind, was brought from 52 to 107.

### *Infant Mortality*

In Bedford the figure was 18.8, the national figure being 21.4. This and the perinatal rate are worse than last year. Figures for last year were 17.2 and 21.7.

### *Population*

The birth rate was 19.2 per thousand.

The illegitimacy rate was 19.2, compared with 20.9 in 1960, and 18.5 in 1959.

### *Immigrants and Health*

Over the last few years diphtheria, typhoid and paratyphoid fever, leprosy and tuberculosis have come into the town. Immigrant doctors, nurses and domestic staff do, however, make a very significant contribution in keeping the hospital service functioning.

### *Staff*

The major worry for any Health Department is the difficulty in recruiting and maintaining a satisfactory staff.

All too often repeated advertising fails to attract professional and technical staff.

The Child Guidance Clinic and School Dental Service are severely affected by staff shortages and other authorities are having difficulties in recruiting young doctors into junior appointments, thus a deteriorating service is to be expected.

### *No grounds for complacency*

None of the figures given in the report gives grounds for complacency. We know that substantially lower infant mortality and still birth rates have been achieved in other countries. Our rate of progress has slowed down. Many of our doctors emigrate, as they do not like working in the Health Service.

## *Welfare Services*

Welfare Services for the physically handicapped, blind and deaf were delegated to the Borough and the year has been one of great activity. Clubs for the physically handicapped and classes for the blind have been successfully started. The additional work has thrown a heavy burden on the Health Department. No staff for these services were transferred to us, which added to the general difficulties. Nevertheless, considerable improvements in this service have been accomplished and the public made more aware of the needs of the disabled.

There were one hundred and thirty-eight blind persons on the register in Bedford at the end of the year. These figures are going up and will continue to go up unless energetic and bold measures are taken. Projects to detect diabetes, blindness and other conditions are new, but this should be a spur to activity.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and encouragement, and to thank all members of the department for their work throughout the year.

I wish to thank Mr. C. W. French, Chief Mental Welfare Officer, and Miss McDowall for their contributions to this report and, as in previous years, I am indebted to Mr. F. J. Dix for undertaking the arduous work of compiling most of this report.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

**CLIVE L. SHARP,**

*Medical Officer of Health.*



# PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(31ST DECEMBER, 1961)

COUNCILLOR MRS. C. M. METZ, Chairman  
ALDERMAN A. A. RANDALL, J.P. (The Mayor)  
COUNCILLOR A. R. SHARP, Vice-Chairman  
COUNCILLOR K. J. R. BIRTWISTLE  
COUNCILLOR H. J. CRAWFORD  
COUNCILLOR A. H. JACKSON  
COUNCILLOR MRS. R. P. MARCHBANK, J.P.  
ALDERMAN L. H. NICHOLSON, M.B.E.  
COUNCILLOR MISS C. M. PROCTER  
COUNCILLOR T. B. WOOLLISCROFT

## STAFF

*Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer and Chief Welfare Officer:*  
C. L. SHARP, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Deputy School Medical Officer:*  
P. LAVIS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Chief Public Health Inspector:*  
E. AVISON, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

*Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:*  
E. J. CONSTABLE, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

*Public Health Inspectors:*  
H. C. ORMEROD, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.  
F. J. O. JAMES, M.A.P.H.I.  
R. PEEL, M.A.P.H.I.  
F. C. RYDING, M.A.P.H.I.

(All the Inspectors are Meat Inspectors)

*Chief Clerk:* F. J. DIX

*Secretary:* MISS V. O. EVANS

*Other Clerical Staff:*

Senior Clerks: F. V. BATSON, MISS O. M. ROSE, MRS. C. WATERHOUSE  
Clerks: MRS. M. D. BARR, MRS. E. BEESLEY, MISS M. J. BLACKER,  
MISS W. BURLEY, MRS. H. COTHILL, MISS L. J. CREAN, MRS. B. DEAN,  
MISS J. O'SULLIVAN, MISS J. SIMMONDS, MRS. L. STRACHAN

*Superintendent Nursing Officer:*  
\*WINNIE FROST, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.'s Cert., Q. Nursing Certificate

*Superintendent Health Visitor:*  
\*EDITH L. MARTIN, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.'s Certificate

*Health Visitors:*  
MISS D. M. EASTWOOD, MISS D. ELLIOTT, MRS. A. H. HAMILTON,  
MRS. A. L. LEE, MRS. A. HOLDER

*School Nurse :*  
MRS. D. DAVIDSON

*Clinic Nurses :*  
MRS. V. M. BARKER and MRS. M. SETCHELL

*District Nurses :*  
MR. A. ANTHONY, MRS. I. FORSYTH, MRS. F. D. L. FOSTER,  
MISS D. W. KNEE, MRS. M. L. PATRICK, MISS E. PRYOR,  
MISS W. M. ROGERS, MR. N. J. SMITH, MISS R. A. SPAVINS  
and MISS B. M. WADELIN

*Midwives :*  
MRS. A. L. CRUNDWELL, MRS. I. HUGHES, MRS. M. E. INSKIP,  
MISS M. L. JACK and MISS F. W. McLEOD

*\* Mental Health Officers :*  
MR. C. W. FRENCH (Chief), A.A.P.S.W.  
MESSRS. A. AUSTIN, C. B. BARNES, B. G. GARNER, E. F. K. KING,  
J. MARSDEN, J. C. SHARDLOW and J. STEPHENSON

*Dental Surgeon :*  
F. BRABINGTON PERRY, L.D.S., R.C.S., D.E.C.D.S. (Part-time)

*Dental Attendant :*  
MISS P. A. SMITH

*Social Welfare Officer :*  
MISS M. McDOWALL

*Welfare Officer :*  
MRS. J. M. E. FRANCE

*Home Teacher for the Blind :*  
MISS I. TURNER

*Trainee Public Health Inspectors :*  
P. M. D. BILLINGTON and R. C. I. LINGER

*Mortuary Attendant and Storekeeper :*  
B. BOULTON

*Disinfectors, Drain Testers, Rodent Destruction Operators :*  
D. DUNCAN and F. H. FAIRHURST

\* Whole-time officers of the Bedfordshire County Council undertaking supervisory duties or working in a shared service capacity.



# BOROUGH OF BEDFORD

## Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

### I. VITAL STATISTICS

#### 1. Summary of Statistics

Area of Borough (in acres) ... ..	4,972
Population—	
Census 1961 ... ..	63,317
Registrar-General's Estimated Home Population for 1961	63,940
Number of Inhabited Houses—	
According to Rate Books ... ..	19,160
Number of Private Households—	
Census 1961 ... ..	20,107
Number of Private Dwellings—	
Census 1961 ... ..	19,110
Rateable Value (15th December, 1961) ... ..	£1,047,819
Penny Rate Product ... ..	£4,353

				Rate per 1,000 population		
Live Births—	Male	Female	Total	Crude	Corrected	
Total ...	660	618	1,278	20.0	19.2	
Legitimate	609	576	1,185			
Illegitimate	51	42	93			
				Rate per 1,000 population	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	
Still Births—						
Total ...	21	12	33	0.5	25.2	
Legitimate	21	12	33			
Illegitimate	—	—	—			
Total Live and Still Births—						
Total ...	681	630	1,311			
Legitimate	630	588	1,218			
Illegitimate	51	42	93			
Infant Deaths (under one year of age)—						
Total ...	9	15	24	18.8	14.9	3.9
Legitimate	7	12	19			
Illegitimate	2	3	5			

Infant Deaths (under four weeks of age)—					Rate per 1,000 live births		
	Male	Female	Total	Total	Legitimate	Illegitimate	
Total ...	6	11	17	13.3	9.4	3.9	
Legitimate	4	8	12				
Illegitimate	2	3	5				
Infant Deaths (under one week of age)—							
Total ...	6	11	17	13.3	9.4	3.9	
Legitimate	4	8	12				
Illegitimate	2	3	5				
Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	...	7.3% of total live births			
Maternal Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Maternal Mortality rate for 1,000 live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.8
Deaths—							
Male	...	...	...	...	...	...	301
Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	321
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	622
Death Rates—							
All Causes	{	Crude	...	...	...	...	9.7
		Adjusted	...	...	...	...	9.8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid			...	...	...	...	—
Whooping Cough			...	...	...	...	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.11
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.42
All causes under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.38
Notifications (corrected)—							
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.30
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.59
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.01
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	25.51
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.63
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)—							
Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Non-paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.64
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.05

## 2. Population

The population as estimated by the Registrar-General for 1961 was 63,940 and as will be seen from the undermentioned table there has been a total increase of population of 2,750.

POPULATION 1960/61

Year	Population	Increase over previous year	Natural increase	Difference due to excess of immigration over emigration
1961	63,940	2,750	656	2,094
Total increase, 1956/1961		8,490	3,134	5,356
Average yearly increase in 5 years		1,698	627	1,071

It is not now possible to give the number of aliens in the town as the coming into force of the Aliens' Order, 1960 somewhat changed the previous system of registration. Commonwealth citizens do not, of course, register therefore true numbers are not available of these persons.

The number of foreign and commonwealth school children attending local authority schools is 1,035.

## 3. Birth Rate

The number of births is largely determined by the number of women of child-bearing age are resident in the area, thus the birth rate cannot be compared with another area unless it is of a similar sex and age structure or until some allowance is made in the calculation. This is the function of the comparability factor, this being supplied to all areas by the Registrar-General.

The birth rate for 1961 was 19.2 after multiplying by the comparability factor of 0.96, and that for England and Wales was 17.4. The crude rate for the year under review was 20.0.

The total number of live births was 1,278.

The above figures show fluctuations which are not necessarily significant, but nationally the trend has been upwards.

## 4. Still Births

The number of still births was 33 and the still birth rate 0.52 per 1,000 population which may be compared with 0.34 for England and Wales. The corresponding rates for 1,000 total live and still births were



25.2 and 18.7 respectively. In order to eliminate chance fluctuations the figures over a period of five years are given in the following table, from which it appears that the average figures vary little from those for the country as a whole.

STILL BIRTH RATES  
Bedford and England and Wales

	Per 1,000 population		Per 1,000 total births (live and still)	
	Bedford	England and Wales	Bedford	England and Wales
1961	0.52	0.34	25.2	18.7
Average - last five years	0.42	0.35	20.6	20.7

5. Death Rate

The uncorrected death rate was 9.7 as compared with 10.1 for the previous year. To make allowances for age and sex constitution the Registrar-General has allowed correction of this figure by the comparability figure of 1.01 by which a corrected death rate of 9.8 is obtained. The death rate compares very favourably with that for the previous year. The rate for England and Wales was 12.0.

## 6. Causes of Death

Cause of Death					Males	Females	Total
ALL CAUSES ... ..					301	321	622
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	2	—	2
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	.....	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	—	1	1
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	6	9	15
11.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	17	17
12.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	17	6	23
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	6	6
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	23	33	56
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	1	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	1	4	5
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	37	57	94
18.	Coronary diseases, angina	...	...	...	74	43	117
19.	Hypertension, with heart disease	...	...	...	4	12	16
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	19	45	64
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	8	5	13
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	2	5	7
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	11	16	27
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	21	9	30
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	5	2	7
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	—	2	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	3	1	4
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	10	—	10
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	1	1
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	2	4	6
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	35	30	65
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	5	—	5
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	10	8	18
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	5	3	8
36.	Homicide	...	...	...	1	—	1

In commenting on causes of death, reference might be made to : —

Tuberculosis caused no deaths (in 1960 three and 1959 one). The death rate is ceasing to be a useful measure of tuberculosis as a problem ; notifications are more significant.

Venereal disease, syphilis, caused two deaths.

Cancer of the stomach caused 15 deaths compared with 15 last year. Cancer of the bronchus (lung) caused 23 deaths compared with 26 deaths in 1960.

Deaths from leukaemia over the last few years have been in 1955 three, then two in the years 1956, 1957, 1958, four in 1959, three in 1960 and in 1961 one.



The following table shows the number of deaths from motor vehicle and other accidents in the past five years.

	Motor vehicle accidents			All other accidents		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1957	6	1	7	6	7	13
1958	9	—	9	9	11	20
1959	11	2	13	10	4	14
1960	6	3	9	11	1	12
1961	5	—	5	10	8	18
Average	8	1	9	9	6	15

One child was killed on the road ; fatal road casualties in the Borough were aged 5, 75, 78 and 26 years.

The importance of preventing accidents at home, at work, and on the roads is brought out by the above figures.

**7. Maternal Mortality**

One death occurred in connection with pregnancy and childbirth, the cause being

- I (a) Myocardial failure.
- (b) Haemorrhage.
- (c) Parturition Hysterotomy.
- II Toxaemia of Pregnancy.

**8. Infant Mortality**

The total number of infant deaths was 24 of which 9 were male and 15 female, giving an infant mortality rate of 18.8 per 1,000 live births over the year, which may be compared with 21.4 per 1,000 live births, the figure for England and Wales.

The table for the past five years shows that the figures for Bedford are much below those for the country as a whole.

**DEATH RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS**

	1961	Average for last five years
Bedford ... ..	18.8	15.3
England and Wales ...	21.4	22.2

The number of neo-natal deaths, or those occurring under one month was 17 corresponding to a rate of 13.3 per 1,000 live births, which compared with 11.2 the figure for the previous year, shows an increase.

## II. PREVENTION OF ILLNESS

### (A) PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

	1961	1960
Prophylaxis—		
Number protected		
Smallpox ... ..	975	828
Poliomyelitis—		
Received three injections ... ..	4,336	3,724
Received two injections and awaiting third ... ..	3,320	4,297
Received fourth injection ... ..	4,980	—
Diphtheria—		
Primary course ... ..	1,305	1,311
Re-inforcing dose ... ..	946	968
<hr/>		
Perinatal Mortality ... ..	17	14
13.3 per 1,000 live births. 0.27 per 1,000 population.		
Post neo natal death rate (deaths after first month until end of first year) ... ..	7	8
5.5 per 1,000 live births. 0.11 per 1,000 population.		
<hr/>		
Children and young persons brought before Juvenile Court—		
1957 ... ..		201
1958 ... ..		182
1959 ... ..		190
1960 ... ..		169
1961 ... ..	Not available	
Children taken into care ... ..		75
<hr/>		
Illegitimacy—Total live and still births ...	93	106
Live births 7.3% of total live births ... ..		7.9
<hr/>		
Cases dealt with by N.S.P.C.C. ... ..	124	127
Consisted of—		
Neglect ... ..	72	67
Assault or ill treatment ... ..	11	13
Beyond control ... ..	4	8
Moral danger ... ..	1	3
Aid/advice sought ... ..	36	36
Children involved ... ..	288	317
Supervisions of families ... ..	540	452



Prosecutions	...	...	...	...	4	1
Juvenile Court Action Only	...	...	...	...	3	—
<hr/>						
Deaths from diseases or conditions in which causation is largely preventable—						
Cancer of the lung	...	...	...	...	23	26
Chronic bronchitis	...	...	...	...	30	39
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
Accidents (other than road)	...	...	...	...	18	16
<hr/>						
Deaths below 55 years of age—						
Males	...	...	...	...	48	45
Females	...	...	...	...	42	57
Total	...	...	...	...	90	102

These figures are given because they give some indication of parental care and progress with regard to preventable disease. They are also a reflection on how effectively we can bring home to people the benefits of preventive measures.

The N.S.P.C.C. figures reveal clearly what remains to be done in this field.

There is no doubt that the universal wearing of safety belts, use of dipped headlights in built-up areas, would save many lives and mitigate the injuries caused in many accidents. However, the wearing of safety belts is discouraged by imposition of purchase tax !

### III. THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE FAMILY DOCTOR

The essence of good administration is to use experts with their specialised apparatus on jobs requiring their expertise. The family doctor is essentially a doctor whose broad knowledge of medicine and surgery enables him to make a diagnosis or initiate investigation which will enable the patient to be referred to the appropriate specialist without delay.

The family doctor should, therefore, have access to the special investigations required. The family doctor who is particularly keen on prevention can attempt to organise this side of his work, but in general, family doctors lack the time, clerical staff and organisation to call up for screening large numbers of patients and the giving of large numbers of injections and other prophylactic measures is difficult. It also cuts into time spent on the sick—which must, of course, be the family doctor's main consideration. In my opinion, a Health Department, with its organisation, clerks, typists, clinics and part-time doctors, could and should take more of this burden. With wastage, emigration and the inadequate numbers of doctors being trained, the patient will be faced with a deteriorating service unless our resources of nurses and women doctors are more intelligently used.

## IV. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

### 1. General

Arrangements in the Borough for sewerage and sewage disposal are adequate at the present time. With the exception of a few houses and a small number of workplaces all premises are connected to the public sewers.

### 2. Water Supply

#### (A) QUALITY AND QUANTITY

I am indebted to the Water Engineer to the North Bedfordshire Water Board for the following information relating to the water supply.

- (i) The water supply to the Borough has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.
- (ii) A summary of the results of bacteriological examinations of the raw water and of the water going into supply is given below : —

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS, 1961

Source	No. of samples	Presumptive coliforms			B. Coli. Type I			Plate counts		
		% positive	% with 1800+ orgs.	Av. orgs. per 100 ml.	% positive	% with 1800+ orgs.	Av. orgs. per 100 ml.	No. of samples	Av. orgs. per ml.	
									37° C.	20° C.
Raw Water ...	53	100	43	1254	100	26	801	53	552	2536
Water to Supply	258	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	53	18	19
Samples after repairs ; from new mains, etc. in Bedford Borough.	143	4	—	—	Nil	—	—	—	—	—

- (iii) No lead in solution. Weekly samples lead free.
- (iv) All work on mains is followed by chlorination and sampling by the Board's chemist.
- (v) All houses supplied by public water mains direct except 14 houses supplied by 4 standpipes (8 almshouses in St. Loyes Street from 3 standpipes and 6 cottages at Biddenham Ford End from 1 standpipe).

#### Safety

Waterworks personnel are, where appropriate, submitted to blood tests to exclude the possibility of any being carriers of typhoid.

A summary of chemical analyses of the raw water and the fully treated water is given in the following table.



CHEMICAL ANALYSES, YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1961

	Raw water		Treated water	
	Range	Average	Range	Average
Reaction (pH) ... ..	7.89-8.55	8.03	7.45-9.0	8.2
Turbidity (silica scale) ... ..	4-69	15	Nil-5	2
Colour (hazen units) ... ..	4-55	23	Nil-11	5
Carbonate hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ...	148-261	232	25-198	70
Non-carbonate hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	84-196	126	84-210	130
Total hardness ... ..	304-406	352	118-390	200
Total hardness (degrees—Clark)	22-29	25	8-28	14
Free Carbon Dioxide ... ..	3.8-5.0	4.6	3.5-6.8	4.6
Chlorine as Chlorides ... ..	23-81	42.6	23-81	46.8
Electric Conductivity (reciprocal megohms per c.c. at 20°C) ...	600-785	686	380-790	496
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (free and saline Ammonia) ... ..	Nil-0.34	0.03	Nil-0.04	0.005
Albuminoid Nitrogen ... ..	0.02-0.59	0.29	0.07-0.31	0.19
Nitrogen in Nitrites ... ..	0.87-5.6	2.4	Nil-3.0	2.05
Nitrogen in Nitrates ... ..				
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C.	1.6-4.9	2.61	0.5-2.0	1.08
Iron ... ..	—	Nil	—	Nil
Copper ... ..	—	Nil	—	Nil
Lead ... ..	—	Nil	—	Nil
Zinc ... ..	—	Nil	—	Nil
Calcium as Ca ... ..	92-158	129	41-146	70
Magnesium as Mg ... ..	1.8	7	1-9	6
Fluorine ... ..	0.1-0.3	0.12	0.1-0.3	0.1
Sulphates ... ..	80-154	80	96-183	95
Phosphates ... ..	0.1-2.45	0.26	Nil-1.1	0.05
Aluminium ... ..	—	—	Trace-1.68	0.5
Sodium ... ..	14-80	26	13-62	25
Potassium ... ..	4.0-9.9	5.0	3.4-10.0	6.7
Anionic detergent (as Manoxol O.T. after Longwell and Maniece)	Nil-0.44	0.25	0.07-0.34	0.18

Results in parts per million

The following tables show the result of examinations undertaken at the Public Health Laboratory Service.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS—FULLY TREATED WATER

No. of samples of water in the course of distribution	Presumptive coliforms		Faecal coliforms	
	Pos.	av. orgs. per 100 ml.	Pos.	av. orgs. per 100 ml.
140	4	2	—	—

Cases where coliforms are found are referred to the Water Board for further investigations. No evidence of pollution dangerous to health was discovered.



(B) UNTREATED RAW WATER

14 samples were taken from the Water Board's Station. The following table shows the results of these samples.

Presumptive coliforms per 100 ml.		Faecal coliforms per 100 ml.	
Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest
9,000	350	1,700	50

(C) SWIMMING BATHS, BATHING PLACES AND PADDLING POOL

*Newnham Baths*

Results of samples taken are shown in the following table and it will be seen that these are very satisfactory.

*Bathing Places and Paddling Pool*

Samples were also taken from four officially controlled or generally recognised bathing places in the river and one paddling pool and the results are as expected for raw river water.

Source	No. of samples	Presumptive coliforms per 100 ml.		Faecal coliforms per 100 ml.	
		Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest
Newnham Baths ...	136	18+	—	18+	—
Bathing Places and Paddling Pool ...	92	18,000+	—	5,550+	—

## V. HOUSING

### 1. General

For details of the work carried out under the Housing and Public Health Acts reference is made to the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector on pages 54-59.

### 2. New Units of Accommodation

During the years 1945 to 1961 the following numbers and type of new units of accommodation were completed.

#### NEW DWELLINGS AND CONVERSIONS, 1945-1961

	(1) Prefabricated Dwellings (Council)		(2) Permanent Dwellings (Council)	(3) Permanent houses erected by builders	(4) Conversions: Houses into flats		(5) Other adapta- tions. Additional units of accommo- dation	(6) Total additional units of accommo- dation provided
	Tem- porary	Perma- nent			i	ii		
45-1961 totals	180	158	2,758	1,952	157	378	14	5,283
61 ... ..	—	—	192*	260	3	8	—	457
Totals ...	180	158	2,950	2,212	160	386	14	5,740

\* Includes 13 for sale.

NOTES—The totals in columns (6) are obtained by adding the figures in columns (1), (2), (3) and (5) as they stand, and in the case of column (4) by subtracting the figures in column (i) from those in column (ii) to find the number to be included in the total. This last procedure may not always be quite accurate, but gives a sufficient approximation.

It should be noted that demolitions known to this Department amounted to 686 over this period.

### 3. Housing Requirements

#### APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES

I am informed by the Housing Manager that the number of applicants for houses on the books of the Corporation at the end of the year was 1,613.

Housing remains an important social problem.

## VI. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

### 1. Infectious Diseases, other than Tuberculosis

#### (A) GENERAL STATISTICS

The following table shows in summary form the number of infectious diseases notified during the year, together with the number of deaths from these diseases.

#### DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED

Disease	Total cases notified
Scarlet Fever ... ..	19
Whooping Cough ... ..	38
Diphtheria ... ..	—
Measles ... ..	1,631
Acute Pneumonia ... ..	40
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	—
Acute Poliomyelitis—	
Paralytic . ... ..	—
Non-Paralytic ... ..	—
Acute Encephalitis—	
Infective ... ..	—
Post Infectious ... ..	—
Dysentery ... ..	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	105
Smallpox ... ..	—
Paratyphoid Fever ... ..	—
Typhoid Fever ... ..	1
Food Poisoning ... ..	—
Jaundice ... ..	3
Erysipelas ... ..	1
Malaria ... ..	—



The following tables gives the number of infectious diseases notified divided into groups of age and sex.

	Scarlet fever		Whooping cough		Acute poliomyelitis		Measles		Diphtheria		Dysentery		Meningococcal infection	
					Paralytic	Non-paralytic								
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	24	29	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year ...	—	—	2	3	—	—	102	90	—	—	1	—	—	—
2 years ...	—	—	9	3	—	—	115	116	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 years ...	1	—	1	1	—	—	118	114	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 years ...	—	—	2	2	—	—	116	107	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-9 years...	7	9	6	5	—	—	335	319	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-14 years ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	21	8	—	—	—	1	—	—
15-24 years ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	6	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 years and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	1	—	—	—
Age unknown ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages)	10	9	21	17	—	—	840	790	—	—	2	1	—	—

	Acute pneumonia		Smallpox		Acute Encephalitis		Enteric or typhoid fever		Paratyphoid fevers	
					Infective	Post-infectious				
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14 years ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-44 years ...	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45 to 64 years ...	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and over ...	3	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages) ...	16	24	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—

	Erysipelas		Food poisoning		Puerperal Pyrexia		Ophthalmia neonatorum		Jaundice		Malaria	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
15-44 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	105	—	—	1	1	—	—
45-64 years ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and over ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages) ...	—	1	—	—	—	105	—	—	2	1	—	—

## (B) INDIVIDUAL DISEASES

### Scarlet Fever

Only 19 cases occurred, none of which was of a serious nature. The case rate was 0.30 per 1,000 population.

### Whooping Cough

38 notifications were received, making a case rate of 0.59.

### Measles

This disease continued at a high rate from the latter end of the previous year and in 1961 medical practitioners notified 1,631 cases. This disease continued at a high rate until the early summer since when only a few cases occurred. The rate was 25.51.

### Typhoid

One case occurred in an Italian woman, and there appears to be no doubt that she contracted the disease abroad, she having returned to Italy for a holiday on the 27th August and came back to Bedford on 23rd September. She felt ill on her return to this country and shortly afterwards was admitted to hospital where the diagnosis of typhoid was made. Five persons were excluded from work as immediate contacts as they were in the food trades and the Authority paid them basic wages as compensation during the time of their suspension. Fortunately no further cases or even suspected cases occurred. This case gives a rate of 0.02.

### General

Other rates for notifications received are as follows : —

Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	0.63
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	0.05
Jaundice	...	...	...	...	0.05
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	0.02

### Food Poisoning

No cases occurred during the year. One suspected outbreak on investigation, proved to be not one of food poisoning.

## 2. Tuberculosis

The following table shows the number of new cases and the number of deaths in their age groups.



# AGE DISTRIBUTION OF CASES AND DEATHS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14 years ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-24 years ... ..	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
25-44 years ... ..	7	5	3	3	—	—	—	—
45-64 years ... ..	7	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
65 years and over ... ..	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ... ..	18	7	5	6	—	—	—	—

## TUBERCULOSIS—CASES NOTIFIED DURING LAST 5 YEARS

Year	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
	M	F	M	F	
1957	24	22	2	5	53
1958	19	20	3	3	45
1959	39	12	2	5	58
1960	27	11	4	—	42
1961	18	7	5	6	36

## TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATES

Year	All forms			Respiratory			Non-respiratory		
	No. in Bedford	Rate per 1,000		No. in Bedford	Rate per 1,000		No. in Bedford	Rate per 1,000	
		Bedford	England and Wales		Bedford	England and Wales		Bedford	England and Wales
1957	2	0.03	0.16	1	0.02	0.09	1	0.02	0.01
1958	3	0.05	0.10	2	0.03	0.09	1	0.01	0.01
1959	1	0.02	0.09	1	0.02	0.08	—	—	0.01
1960	3	0.05	0.07	2	0.03	0.07	1	0.02	0.01
1961	—	—	0.07	—	—	0.06	—	—	0.01
Average	2	0.03	0.10	1	0.02	0.08	1	0.01	0.01

### 3. Verminous Infestation

The following table shows the work carried out during the year.

VERMINOUS HEADS EXAMINED AND TREATED  
AT THE CLEANSING STATION

	Bedford	County
Pre-School Children ... ..	—	—
School Children ... ..	7	—
Adults ... ..	—	1

## VII. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—SECTION 47

### 1. Persons in need of care and attention

This Section provides for the necessary care and attention of persons who—

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged and infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

Under this act it was necessary to take action to obtain the compulsory removal to hospital of three elderly women, who were living alone. One was received in August, one in September and the third in November. The first two eventually decided to stay in hospital on their own accord, but, unfortunately, the third person died a few days after admission.

These women were discovered, in each case, to be living alone, seriously ill, receiving no attention whatsoever, and completely unable to help themselves.

In four other instances, it was necessary to give advice and/or ask the assistance of other officials to avoid deterioration of home conditions.

### 2. Aged Persons

In all 52 aged persons were visited, either by a Health Visitor or a Public Health Inspector to ensure that they were receiving proper care and attention. Some of these persons were referred by the Hospital Authorities, particularly in instances where they were being discharged from hospital to live at home by themselves.



Where necessary, the services of a Home Help have been obtained and assistance has also been sought from voluntary and other national and local government services.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

(A) MORTUARY

The following table shows the work done in connection with the Mortuary. The total number of bodies received showed an increase on that of the previous year by 30.

BODIES RECEIVED

	Bodies received from Borough	Bodies received from other areas	Total
Post Mortems carried out	78	118	196
Post Mortems not carried out     ...     ...     ...	4	4	8
Total     ...     ...	82	122	204

(B) DOMESTIC BATHS, COMMERCIAL ROAD

The following table shows the attendances made at the baths up to the date of closing on 22nd July, 1961 : —

Men     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...	469
Women     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...	239
Total     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...	708

The authority has provided new shower baths at the public conveniences to the multi-storey car park in Gwyn Street and these are administered by the Borough Engineer.

(C) CREMATION

As Medical Referee to the Bedford Crematorium I have the duty of scrutinising the application and medical documents required by law.

Scrutiny of the necessary documents and investigation of difficulties is very time consuming. Cremations during 1961 numbered 588 as compared with 712 in 1960. The 1961 figure includes 261 for Bedford.

In view of the restricted land available in towns for earth burial, the practice of cremation should be encouraged.

(D) EMIGRATION

Those travelling abroad require authentication of their medical documents by this Department and this enables us to get some informa-



tion on numbers and destination. The information obtained is given in tabular form below.

INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATES OF SMALLPOX VACCINATION :  
AUTHENTICATION OF DOCTOR'S SIGNATURE

	No. of persons who submitted documents	Destination			Reason for travelling				
		Common- wealth	Other Countries	Not known	Business	Holiday	Emigration	H.M. Forces or Merchant Navy	Not known
1961	437	235	191	13	92	188	111	40	8
1960	279	152	114	13	80	106	70	19	4

IX. PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

1. Births

The number of births occurring in the area and notified by doctors and midwives was as follows : —

		Live Births		Still Births		Totals	
		Actual	Adjusted	Actual	Adjusted	Actual	Adjusted
Domiciliary	...	465	461	7	7	472	468
Institutional	...	1,512	850	40	23	1,552	873
Totals	...	1,977	1,311	47	30	2,024	1,341

It will be seen that approximately three-quarters of the births notified occurred in institutions, nearly all at the Bedford General Hospital, North Wing.

In comparing these figures with those given by the Registrar-General under “ Vital Statistics ”, it will also be noticed that the actual number of births given by him is 30 less if his total live and still births is compared with the total adjustment births obtained from local sources, namely 1,311.

2. Premature Births

Premature births are those in which an infant weighs 5½ lbs. or less and for whom special care is required.

The tables following show the number of such births during the year and it will be noticed that the majority occurred in hospitals where

special treatment is more readily available, although for domiciliary cases arrangements are in existence whereby needs can be met as quickly as possible.

NUMBER OF PREMATURE LIVE BIRTHS (AS ADJUSTED BY ANY NOTIFICATIONS TRANSFERRED IN OR OUT OF THE AREA)

In Hospital	At Home	In Private Nursing Homes	Total
78	11	—	89

NUMBER OF PREMATURE STILL-BIRTHS NOTIFIED (AS ADJUSTED BY ANY NOTIFICATIONS TRANSFERRED IN OR OUT OF THE AREA)

In Hospital	At Home	In Private Nursing Homes	Total
13	4	—	17

3. *Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics*

No clinics are operated by the Local Authority, but clinics are held at the Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, to which local medical practitioners may refer patients. All expectant and nursing mothers who are entering or have entered the hospital for confinement are requested to attend the hospital clinics.

Midwives' clinics are held fortnightly at Putnoe Centre and booking sessions are held weekly at this clinic.

In addition, relaxation and mothercraft sessions were held fortnightly at Putnoe and Brereton Road Centres and attendances were as follows :

	Brereton Road	Putnoe*
Sessions held ... ..	26	9
Women who attended ...	154	29
Attendances ... ..	356	79
Totals ... ..	536	117

\* Opened in July, 1961.

4. *Child Welfare Centres*

A new centre was opened at Putnoe on 3rd July, 1961, this having been erected by the Bedfordshire County Council and handed over to the Borough Council under the scheme of delegation of Health Services. This new building replaced Putnoe Heights Methodist Church School-room, which had been hired as a clinic for mothers and children and as a booking centre for the midwives.

The Union Street clinic was partially built but did not come into use during 1961.



The following tables show the work undertaken at the Borough Centres : —

### ATTENDANCES AT CLINICS

Centre	No. of sessions during year	Number of children who attended during year				Number of attendances during year			
		Born in			Total	Age at date of attendance			Total
		1961	1960	1959-56		0 -	1 -	2 - 4	
Barford Avenue	100	153	134	130	417	3,177	581	479	4,237
Brereton Road	102	183	191	94	468	3,778	315	127	4,220
Goldington ...	51	72	83	47	202	1,414	261	77	1,752
Harewood Road	52	65	90	25	180	1,519	352	89	1,960
Putnoe ...	73	222	173	116	511	3,206	515	216	3,937
Queen's Park ...	50	80	70	93	243	1,352	331	255	1,938
Totals ...	428	775	741	505	2,021	14,446	2,355	1,243	18,044

#### 5. *Ultra Violet Light (Sunlight) Clinic*

The attendances at this clinic over the past few years have been decreasing rapidly and this, no doubt, is due to the very great improvement in the health of children and their living conditions.

Figures are as follows : —

No. of Children Attending	No. of Attendances	Sessions Held
13	80	35

#### 6. *Distribution of Welfare Foods and Other Commodities*

##### (I) WELFARE FOODS OBTAINED AND SOLD THROUGH MINISTRY OF HEALTH ARRANGEMENTS

A & D Tablets (Pkts. of 20)	Cod Liver Oil	National Dried Milk		Orange Juice
		Full Cream	Half Cream	
896	1,620	4,158	18	8,856

##### (II) WELFARE FOODS OBTAINED BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

In addition to the above, the Local Authority obtains and sells dried milk and other commodities at a cost amounting to approximately £4,000 per year.

#### 7. *Dental Treatment*

By arrangement with the Committee for Education, the School Dental Surgeon undertook the work of dental treatment for nursing and



expectant mothers and children under five years of age. The following figures show the nature of the work done.

NUMBERS PROVIDED WITH DENTAL CARE

	Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated	Made Dentally Fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ... ..	—	—	—	—
Children under 5 ...	28	21	21	21

FORM OF DENTAL TREATMENT PROVIDED

	Scalings and Gum Treatment	Fillings	Silver Nitrate Treatment	Crowns or Inlays	Extractions	General Anaesthetics	Dentures Provided		Radiographs
							Full Upper or Lower Partial	Upper or Lower	
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Children under 5	—	28	—	—	10	—	—	—	—

8. Health Visiting

At the end of the year the Health Visiting staff consisted of four Health Visitors with three clinic nurses. The establishment for health visitors was ten and in consequence of the difficulties in obtaining the required number of staff, the work has thereby been seriously affected, not only in the number of visits made but also in the smooth running of the clinics. In addition, the health visitors employed had to bear the strain caused by endeavouring to carry on with work which normally requires the full establishment of 10.

The following table shows the visiting undertaken and its nature.

No. of children under 5 years of age visited during year	Expectant Mothers		Children under 1 year of age		Children age 1 and under 2 years	Children age 2 but under 5 years	Tuberculous Households	Other cases	Total number of families or households visited
	First Visits	Total Visits	First Visits	Total Visits	Total Visits	Total Visits	Total Visits	Total Visits	
3,446	389	596	1,275	6,347	2,900	4,907	—	562	2,056
		189		1,228				30	

Figures in heavy type denote "No access" visits. These are not included in the figures given immediately above.

The following clinics, etc. were attended by Health Visitors : —

Mothers and Children	...	...	573
Birth Control	...	...	23
Mothercraft	...	...	11
Immunisation and Vaccination	...		8
School Medical Inspections	...	...	3
School Health Survey	...	...	7
Ultra Violet Light	...	...	1
Meetings and Lectures	...	...	35

### 9. Home Nursing

This service, usually known as the District Nursing Service, and consisting of ten nurses (eight female and two male), worked quite smoothly during the year, there being a full establishment.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	Patients included in 2 and 7		
								Over 65	Under 5	H o : vi
No. of cases attended by Home Nurses during the year ...	Medical 876	Surgical 126	Infectious Diseases —	Tuberculosis 17	Maternal Complications 2 plus 9 abortions	Others 2	Totals 1,032	at time of first visit 635	10	
No. of visits paid by Home Nurses during the year	24,185	4,451	—	1,124	9 plus 40 abortions	69	29,878	21,426	71	23,

### 10. Midwives

The number of midwives on the establishment of the Public Health Department is six, but at the end of the year five were in employment. Steps had, however, been taken to fill the vacancy early in 1962.

18 midwives were employed in an institution (Bedford General Hospital, North Wing) and the following tables show duties carried out.



NUMBER OF DELIVERIES ATTENDED BY MIDWIVES IN THE AREA  
DURING THE YEAR

	Domiciliary Cases					Cases in Institutions
	Doctor not booked		Doctor booked		Totals	
	Doctor present at time of delivery of child	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child	Doctor present at time of delivery of child (either the booked doctor or another)	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child		
Midwives employed by the Authority ...	—	2	68	394	464	
Midwives employed at local hospital ...	—	5	—	1	6	1,512
Totals ... ..	—	7	68	395	470	1,512

There were 65 cases in which medical aid was summoned under Section 14 (1) of the Midwives Act, by domiciliary midwives where the medical practitioners had arranged to provide patients with maternity medical services under the National Health Service.

#### 11. Administration of Inhalational Analgesics

The number of midwives in practice at the end of the year qualified to administer inhalational analgesics was as follows :—

Bedford General Hospital (North Wing)	...	18
Domiciliary	... ..	5

The number of cases in which inhalational analgesics were administered by midwives in domiciliary practice was :—

When doctor was present at time of delivery of child			When doctor was not present at time of delivery of child		
Gas and Air	Gas and Air and Pethidine	Trilene	Gas and Air	Gas and Air and Pethidine	Trilene
20	36	—	170	154	—



The number of cases in which pethidine was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice was : —

When doctor was present at time of delivery of child		When doctor was not present	
Pethidine	Gas and Air and Pethidine	Pethidine	Gas and Air and Pethidine
3	36	4	154

## 12. *Unmarried Mothers and Children*

For the care of the unmarried mother and her child, close association exists with the North Bedfordshire Association for Moral Welfare, the St. Alban's Diocesan Council for Moral Welfare and the Northampton Diocesan Catholic Child Protection and Welfare Society, whereby the Authority is responsible for the maintenance of mothers and babies during their stay in Mother and Baby Homes, normally outside Bedfordshire.

During the year 4 mothers were given help in this way.

## 13. *Mothers' and Babies' Home*

The North Bedfordshire Association for Moral Welfare opened, during the year, a Mothers' and Babies' Home—Holt House, 178 Hurst Grove—to which the Bedford Borough Council and neighbouring authorities send unmarried mothers and their babies.

The accommodation consists of 11 beds and 6 cots. There are no labour beds. The average length of stay is six weeks.

There were 18 admissions in the year, three of whom were cases sent by local authorities.

## 14. *Nurseries and Child Minders*

### *Day Nurseries*

The Council maintains a Day Nursery at 34 St. John's Street and this is open daily, except Saturdays and Sundays, between the hours of 8.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m.

The Day Nursery Admission Sub-Committee meets periodically to consider applications received.

A charge is made which is based on the net income of the applicants after allowances have been made for parents, children, rent and rates or board and lodging, National Insurance and any other items considered to be reasonable.

Up to the 31st March, the daily charges were 1s. 6d. to 9s. 3d. but on the 1st April revised charges came into operation, namely 1s. 6d. to

17s. 6d. per day. The revised charges were considered necessary in order to meet the increasing costs of maintaining the nursery, the former charges having been in existence for many years.

Details of admissions and attendances are as follows :—

Number of children on register at 1/1/61	...	...	39
Number added to register during year	...	...	55
Number removed from register during year	...	...	59
Number remaining on register at 31/12/61	...	...	35
Number of sessions	...	...	254

Attendances—

0 - 2 years	...	...	...	...	2,086
2 - 5 years	...	...	...	...	4,856
					6,942

Average daily attendance (Monday-Friday)—

0 - 2 years	...	...	...	...	8
2 - 5 years	...	...	...	...	19
					27

The imposition of much heavier assessments, together with infectious disease, reduced attendances. A re-assessment of our needs for the future will have to be made if the trend continues.

Day Nurseries, set up under arrangement made by Religious or Welfare Associations, are registered as follows :—

Situation	Occupier	No. of Places
8-10 Woburn Road ... ..	Rev. J. W. Susin ... ..	30
St. Andrew's Church Hall, ... ..	Bedford & District Society	14
St. Alban Road (for mentally handicapped children) ... ..	for Mentally Handicapped Children ... ..	(one day a week only)

These nurseries have been periodically inspected by your Medical Officer and have been found to be well maintained.

*Child Minders*

At the end of the year two persons were registered as Child Minders, providing for 27 children. The homes of these persons were regularly inspected and found to be maintained in a satisfactory state and requirements concerning the minding of children properly adhered to.

15. *Nursing Homes*

There were five nursing homes on the register at the beginning of the year, but in April one registration was withdrawn by the occupier as the premises were no longer regarded as coming within the purview of a nursing home.

Details are as follows :—

Names and Situation	No. of Beds
De Parys Nursing Home, 42 De Parys Avenue ...	13
The Rothsay Nursing Home, 53 Goldington Road	26



62 Chaucer Road	...	...	...	...	...	8
"Cheltondale," 84 Castle Road	...	...	...	...	...	10
"Homelea," 26 Clapham Road (Registration withdrawn on 26th April, 1962)	...	...	...	...	...	10

Periodic inspections of the above homes have been made by your medical officers.

#### 16. *Birth Control*

A special clinic where birth control advice is given and where contraceptive materials are supplied, is held fortnightly at Barford Avenue Centre. It is a condition that women attending the clinic do so on medical or domestic reasons and during the year 167 mothers attended, the number of visits made being 288.

In addition, the Bedford Family Planning Association holds sessions at the local hospital. The scope of this association is, however, broader in character than the Local Authority clinic.

#### 17. *Domestic Help Service*

The Borough shares this service with the County Council, the County Health Department being responsible for the organisation.

The number of domestic helps employed under the control of the Home Help Organiser is as follows : —

(a) Whole-time	...	...	...	...	5
(b) Part-time	...	...	...	...	52
(c) Whole-time equivalent of (b)	...	...	...	...	27

The County Council assess the need for this service on an hourly basis and the number of hours allotted to Bedford Borough was 57,500. The actual hours served and the number of cases where help was provided were : —

		No. of Cases	No. of Hours
(i) Maternity	...	87	3,498½
(ii) Tuberculosis	...	1	172
(iii) Chronic Sick	...	369	46,022¾
(iv) Other cases	...	49	1,426½
Travelling Time	...		5,643½
Total Hours	...		56,763¼

This service needs strengthening as it has to cope with more old people and more maternity cases each year.

#### 18. *Persons Receiving Extra Nourishment*

Number receiving 2 pints pasteurised milk per day and 3 eggs per week	...	...	...	...	12
Number receiving 1 pint pasteurised milk per day and 3 eggs per week	...	...	...	...	5
Number receiving 1 pint pasteurised milk per day	...	...	...	...	1



## 19. *Vaccination and Immunisation*

The following tables show the numbers vaccinated or immunised. During the year vaccination against tetanus was instituted and where possible a triple antigen is now used for infants (diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus) : —

### (A) SMALLPOX

No. of Persons Vaccinated	
No. of Primary Vaccinations	No. Revaccinated
733	242

### (B) POLIOMYELITIS

No. of Persons who received

Totals ...	2 Injections	3 Injections	a 4th Injection
	3,320 (226)	4,336 (712)	4,980 (393)

### (C) DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS

Primary Courses

Diphtheria	Combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough	Whooping Cough	Triple Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus	Combined Diphtheria and Tetanus
249	839	—	213	4

Reinforcing

Diphtheria	Combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough	Whooping Cough	Triple Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus	Combined Diphtheria and Tetanus
826	107	—	10	3

The following table shows how the work was carried out : —

	Immunised or Vaccinated at Clinics, Schools or Nurseries by M.O.		Immunised or Vaccinated by General Practitioners	
	Primary Courses	Reinforcing Courses	Primary Courses	Reinforcing Courses
Smallpox ... ..			733	242
Poliomyelitis ... ..	1,214 (99)	3rd 1,679 (318) 4th 3,523 (389)	2,106 (127)	3rd 2,657 (394) 4th 1,457 (4)
Diphtheria ... ..	180	613	69	213
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	—	—
Comb. Diph./Wh. Cough	291	1	548	106
Triple Diphth./Wh. Cough/Tetanus ... ..	99	—	114	10
Comb. Diphth./Tetanus	4	3	—	—

Figures in brackets relate to persons vaccinated in the Borough but who reside out and who mostly attend school or work in Bedford.

Number of children in the area on the 31st December, 1961 who had completed a course of diphtheria immunisation at any time between 1st January, 1947 and 31st December, 1961 : —

Age on 31/12/61 (i.e. born in year)	Under 1 1961	1—4 1957—60	5—9 1952—56	10—14 1947—51	Total under 15
No. of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in the period 1957-61 ...	316	2,909	3,176	2,311	8,712
No. of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in 1956 or earlier ... ..	—	—	1,059	2,709	3,768

(D) B.C.G. VACCINATION (TUBERCULOSIS)

Initial Heaf Test			B.C.G. Vaccination Children referred to Chest Clinic			
No. of children tested	No. found to be positive and referred to Chest Clinic	No. found to be negative	No. of children vaccinated	No evidence of pulmonary tuberculosis	Failed to attend for x-ray examination	To be kept under observa- tion at Chest Clinic
1,006	163*	814	813	122	1	7

\* Of this number 33 were awaiting appointments at Chest Clinic at end of year.



The large scale trials of Sabin Oral poliomyelitis vaccine given on sugar or in syrup were successful and this should, in due course, replace Salk vaccine completely. Much expert opinion, which I accept, is that all children should be revaccinated with oral vaccine irrespective of how many doses of Salk they may have had. It is to be hoped that we will be free to advise this in due course.

## 20. *Home Health Services*

### (a) Co-operation with General Medical Practitioners.

There are no special arrangements for health visitors to work with a particular family doctor, or group of doctors. There are numerous difficulties to any such scheme.

Staff shortages and the initial difficulties to be expected lead one to conclude that a trial would have to be made with one health visitor in the first place. The use made of a health visitor by a family doctor, or partnership, would be very variable and doctors would expect to know exactly what they could expect from health visitors. Experience in other areas will be studied carefully, but the present shortage of staff makes a scheme impossible.

### (b) Arrangements for Follow Up Cases Discharged from Hospital.

Geriatric cases are referred to the health visitors and should any matter need attention the health visitor reports to the family doctor, or Medical Officer of Health, as appropriate.

It is, of course, open to any hospital consultant to get in touch with the domiciliary service through the hospital almoner, so that a health visitor can report on the home situation and enlist whatever agencies are indicated.

It is rare for them to do so in respect of health visitors, though the home nurses are commonly utilised to help with treatment.

### (c) Arrangements for Health Education.

Quite a lot of the work of the professional staff of the Health Department consists of advising and guiding individuals on matters which, either directly or indirectly, affect their health, whether physical or mental. This is a continuous process and takes place in home and clinic, factory and shop. It is Health Education, although rarely thought of as such.

In addition much is also done on a more organised basis. The mothercraft class at Brereton Road continued to function successfully. At intervals the expectant mothers were invited to bring their husbands to an evening film show where they could see, amongst other things, how a baby is born. These film shows have been well supported and greatly appreciated. Mothercraft and relaxation classes quickly became regular features at the Putnoe Clinic after its opening during the year.

Posters and leaflets are used in all the clinics. These are supplied by the County Health Education Officer who also keeps a library of film strips and other visual aids which are available for use in the Borough. His services were utilised not only for the film shows in the



clinics but also for shows to food handlers as part of the courses organised by the Department.

During the year talks on various health topics were given to organisations in the town by members of the staff and by the County Health Education Officer.

21. *Social Welfare Work*

Work undertaken during the year was as follows : —

Number of families visited	...	...	...	...	59
Number of visits made	...	...	...	...	1,126

**Report of the Social Welfare Officer**

The Social Welfare Officer is not concerned with one special person in a household, but with the family situation as a whole.

The expression “ problem families ” has been used for families who have been unable to make the grade socially and do not seem able to order their lives in accordance with the standards of the community. To help these people it is first necessary to understand them and to discover what has gone to make them what they are. An unhappy childhood, an unfortunate marriage, a family quarrel, illness, unemployment, mental instability or a low level of intelligence, or too many children too close together, all these things may have contributed to the situation.

But better a fence at the edge of the cliff than an ambulance at the bottom. The Social Welfare Officer hopes to be able to advise more and more families who have problems, but who may be shown how to avoid breakdown. There are mercifully few who should be labelled “ problem families ”—an expression to be avoided if possible, but there are many families with problems. Some troubles the individual has to learn to live with ; others can be sorted out. People need to understand each other’s difficulties and reactions within the family. This means letting them talk, which may take much time but is far from unproductive. “ I’d have left him long ago, love, if it hadn’t been for you. It’s having somebody to talk to.”

It may be possible to restore understanding and harmony in an awkward home. Outward conditions may then improve because mum has the heart to clean up and dad the will to work regularly and to do some decoration in the home. How much more constructive than doing it for them ! In cases of real mental subnormality a sympathetic Home Help is really the only answer, at certain times at any rate, such as after a confinement.

A caseworker works through the relationship she is able to have with her clients and the friendship that grows up between her and the family. The more obvious surface problems may be tackled while trying to understand the underlying problems. People often need help in their contacts with the world at large. The Social Welfare Officer



has acted as escort to hospitals, clinics and lawyers and makes contact with official and voluntary organisations.

All these activities are undertaken with a view to lessening anxiety and making life go more smoothly. Worry and overstrain have a chain reaction. Taut nerves lead to unnecessary quarrels, to illness and even to family break-up. Anxiety over debts often leads to excessive smoking, which means less money. The vicious circle needs to be broken.

The work is of necessity extremely confidential and personal stories cannot be given in a public report, but examples can be given of the sort of situation which may be found. (These are not specific local examples) : —

1. A young couple with four children. Wife got into debt while husband was out of work and hid the fact from him. While she was in hospital for confinement a Notice to Quit arrived from the local Council. The young man, thinking that rent should no longer be paid, ceased to draw rent allowance from the National Assistance Board.

Action : Man was told he should have gone to see the housing manager. Letter was written to the National Assistance Board to ask if rent allowance could be given retrospectively and a copy was sent to the housing department. The National Assistance Board paid the arrears of rent and the Council gave the family another chance. Work was found for the young man. Follow-up contact was kept up by regular visiting and the rent payments supervised. The couple needed advice over their treatment of each other and their lack of confidence in each other and also practical suggestions about the management of money.

2. Husband and wife and large family of children. A number of debts and Notice to Quit from local Council. Reasonable home standards, but the wife was completely lethargic and just sat at home and made no effort to pay her way and her husband lost heart. The wife seemed too tired to cope, so her doctor was consulted and it was found that she was extremely anaemic. She was put on special treatment and began to regain vitality. Husband, who had been losing time, got back to regular work. His regimental fund was approached and made a grant to help with debts. Regular visiting carried on over a period.

3. Man at sea, inadequate wife with family of eight ; rent in arrears and Notice to Quit ; electricity disconnected for debt ; large hole in bedroom ceiling, not repaired because of rent arrears ; house dirty ; wife not in good health.

Action : Terms made with electricity board and with local Council. Money collected weekly by worker and on these conditions electricity restored. Notice to Quit withdrawn and ceiling mended. Wife had all her teeth out and felt better. Long term friendship followed and the family were supported and held together through many vicissitudes.

Families like this last one need continuing support, but friendship



over the years with the worker gives them someone whom they can trust and turn to and a variety of disasters may be averted.

Co-operation is maintained with other departments and an introduction to another social worker is sometimes all that is needed.

Many people feel very impatient with these members of society who cannot manage their affairs satisfactorily and feel that money should not be spent on helping them. This is, of course, a very shortsighted view, as should these families break up the cost of maintaining the children of one problem family in residential care is substantial and a few families kept together will be more than the Social Worker's salary.

Society makes no effort to restrict the families of those who are unfit by reason of mental subnormality for maintaining themselves and their families and hence we must care for the inevitable breakdowns as best we can. It is, of course, particularly noticeable that many of those least able to cope with large families have them and provide the bulk of our problem families within the Borough. A section emerge damaged by their poor management and handicapped by their poor genetic endowment.

22. *Chiropody*

The Old People's Welfare Committee have for some years past operated a Chiropody Clinic for elderly persons with the free use of one of the Local Authority's clinics.

Since 1st April, 1960, the expenses incurred in the running of this clinic have been borne by the Local Authority. The Secretary of the Committee states : —

“ The number of patients attending the clinic has grown from 230 to 419 and over 100 patients are attended to in their own homes. Many of these could attend the clinic if transport was available but voluntary helpers with their cars available in the daytime are difficult to find. The clinic is open on Tuesday afternoon and all day on Wednesday, with two or three chiropodists at each session.”

Number of attendances during year	...	...	...	1,587
Number of domiciliary visits by chiropodists	...	...	...	468

In addition to the above clinic, the County Council appointed a whole-time chiropodist and on Fridays he holds a clinic at 29 Barford Avenue. He commenced this clinic on 14th September, 1961, and details of the work undertaken are given below. As well as the elderly, he undertakes treatment of the physically handicapped.

Number of attendances during year (since 14/9/61)	...	...	...	32
Number of domiciliary visits	...	...	...	9

This work is regarded as an essential one for the foot comfort of the elderly and infirm and is one that is greatly appreciated by those receiving treatment.

One suspects that much foot trouble has its origin in the unsatisfactory design of women's shoes, where some money-making design gimmick takes precedence over the requirements of the normal foot.



## X. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

### 1. *Administration*

Under the scheme of delegation, the Corporation received as from 1st April, 1961, powers to establish a Mental Health Service for the Borough, but it was realised that to do so as a separate entity would be very uneconomic. The County Council has continued to provide the service in the Borough in conjunction with that for the northern part of the County.

The Chief Mental Welfare Officer, who is responsible for the day-to-day running of the service, reports to the Borough Medical Officer of Health on Borough cases. There is also an Assistant Chief Mental Welfare Officer, and these two officers, both of whom have qualified as psychiatric social workers, have responsibilities for the County as a whole, including the Borough, and have a senior clerk to assist them.

### 2. *Community Care*

The primary object of all community care is to establish with the patient, where possible, and his family a relationship of such a nature that he and they can be helped to help themselves towards a more socially acceptable and satisfactory way of life, both from the patient's and the family's point of view and from that of society. A close liaison is maintained with the general practitioner. Full use is made, where appropriate, of facilities for psychiatric out-patient or domiciliary consultation, and, where necessary, hospital admission. Compulsion is only used as a last resort. Other Departments and Services (e.g. Welfare and Children's Departments, Probation Service, Child Guidance Clinics, National Assistance Board, Hospital Social Service Departments, etc.) are called upon where necessary.

The number of cases of mental illness under care in the community (49) is rising, and this is the aspect of the work of the service which is by far the most difficult and time consuming, and calls for the greatest skill on the part of the Mental Welfare Officer.

It has so far been possible to obtain hospital care for all cases of mental illness where this was urgently required. A special residential home for the elderly mentally infirm, to serve North Bedfordshire, including the Borough, is in an advanced stage of planning, and building should commence in the financial year 1961/62, and should provide a more satisfactory solution to some of the cases of mild confusion and other mental disorders attributable to old age, which are referred to the service.

### 3. *Training and Occupation*

The County Council has provided a Training Centre for the North Bedfordshire area, including the Borough, since 1947. This Centre transferred to new, specially built premises in 1957, and now provides 35 places, catering for both sexes and for both juniors (under 16 years) and adults. The teaching staff consists of a Supervisor and two Assistant Supervisors, all of whom have qualified by taking courses of training

organised by the National Association for Mental Health. At the end of the year, building was far advanced to provide a further 15 places for older boys and men, on the same site but in a separate unit. It is hoped to have this unit in operation from the beginning of the Summer Term, 1962, and this will release a number of places for juniors in the existing Centre.

The County Council has made provision in the Estimates for 1962/63 for the erection of a separate Centre for adults of both sexes, which will be run as a sheltered workshop. The existing Centre, and the extensions now in course of building, will then be used entirely for juniors, and should meet the full need for North Bedfordshire.

TABLE A—MENTAL ILLNESS AND MENTAL SUBNORMALITY

	Mentally Ill	Mentally Subnormal
Totals ... ..	232	31

TABLE B—SEX/AGE DISTRIBUTION—MENTAL ILLNESS

	Age							Totals
	Under 21	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71 and over	
Males ...	9	14	32	27	21	5	6	114
Females ...	5	18	26	11	24	17	17	118
Totals ...	14	32	58	38	45	22	23	232

TABLE C—SEX/AGE DISTRIBUTION—SUBNORMAL AND S.S.N.

	Age			Totals
	Under 7 years	7-15 years	16 years upwards	
Males ...	7	2	10	19
Females ...	4	4	4	12
Totals ...	11	6	14	31



MENTAL HEALTH STATISTICS—TABLE “D”

Category of Disorder	Cases Referred during Period			Action Taken												Under Community Care at end of Period				Total				
	Old	New	Total	Compulsorily				Without Compulsion								Under Guardianship	On Leave from Hospital	Under other Community Care	M		F			
				Admitted to Guardianship	Admitted to Hospital				Placed under Community Care	Other Action	Total													
					For Observa- (S.29)	For Observa- tion (S.25)	For Treatment (S.26)	Informally			M	F	M	F	M							F	M	F
Sex	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F				
Mental Illness	49	67	65	51	114	118	—	—	14	13	8	4	3	2	33	31	14	21	75	83	147	154	21	28
Psychopathy							—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—										
Subnormality	12	7	7	5	19	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	1	5	5	9	7	22	13	37	27
Severe Subnormality							—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—										
Totals ...	61	74	72	56	133	130	—	—	14	13	8	4	3	2	41	32	19	26	84	90	169	167	58	55
	135		128		263		—	—	27		12		5		73		45		174		336		113	115



TABLE E—BREAKDOWN OF “OTHER ACTION IN TABLE D”

	Mentally Ill		Mentally SN and SSN		Totals	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Referred to O.P.C. ... ..	50	31.7	3	18.75	53	30.5
Referred to Domiciliary Cons.	11	7			11	6.3
Admission to Gen. Hospital	1	0.6			1	0.6
Admission to Chronic Sick Hospital ... ..	2	1.3			2	1.1
Admission to Pt. III ... ..	1	0.6			1	0.6
Referred to Welfare Dept. ...	1	0.6			1	0.6
Referred to Other Depts. ...	3	1.9			3	1.7
Left with relatives, or other minor investigation ...	61	38.6	13	81.25	74	42.5
No immediate action ...	9	5.7			9	5.2
Referred to G.P. ... ..	19	12			19	10.9
Total ... ..	158	100	16	100	174	100

TABLE F—

## ACCOMMODATION AT TRAINING CENTRES, 31ST DECEMBER, 1961

	Under 16			16 yrs. & over			Total		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Attending Austin Canons ...	13	2*	15	5	6*	11	18	8	26
Waiting for places ... ..	—	1	1	3	4	7	3	5	8
Total Need ... ..	13	3	16	8	10	18	21	13	34

\* 1 Part-time in each group.

Table “F” shows the position with regard to persons resident within the Borough and attending the Centre or waiting for places, as at 31st December, 1961. In addition, there were at that date in the Borough, two mentally handicapped girls, both over 16 years of age, who would be unable by reason respectively of physical and emotional handicap to attend a Centre, and for whom home teaching is required. All efforts to recruit a home teacher have failed.

#### 4. *Clubs*

The Bedford and District Society for the Mentally Handicapped has sponsored the formation, under an independent Committee, of a club for the handicapped, which meets twice a month, in the evening, in hired premises. Most of those attending are mentally handicapped and the club does good work in providing a social outlet for them.

#### 5. *Voluntary Societies*

The Bedford and District Society, mentioned above, is one of four such societies in the County, all affiliated to the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children. In addition to their work for the club, the Society has been very active and has made substantial contributions towards the welfare of the mentally handicapped. It has made gifts of apparatus, etc., to the Training Centre, and, in conjunction with the other Societies, has provided holidays at the seaside and other outings for children and their parents.

Parents find, in the Societies, mutual support which helps to relieve anxieties and break down the feeling of isolation which is so marked a feature of these cases. A great deal of good work has also been done in bringing the problem of mental handicap to the notice of the general public, enlisting their better understanding and sympathy and breaking down fears and prejudices.

### **XI. WELFARE**

#### 1. *Delegation*

The delegation of welfare (excluding residential accommodation which is a County Council responsibility) necessitated the building up of a department section. A Welfare Officer, Mrs. J. M. E. France, and a Home Teacher of the Blind, Miss I. G. Turner, were appointed. The post of Occupational Therapist is still vacant.

An assessment of our register in comparison with those elsewhere led me to the conclusion that the problem was far bigger than appeared.

Numerous consultations were made with individuals and organisations to learn of the latest ideas and improvements and to get their support for the creation of an effective department, adequately staffed and provided with the necessary equipment for carrying out their duties. We benefited from advice from Dr. G. W. H. Townsend, Medical Officer of Health, and Mr. Jolley, Welfare Officer, for Buckinghamshire, and also had help and advice from Mr. W. Davison, Chief Welfare Officer to Bedfordshire County Council, and his staff.

The major requirements are :—

- (i) Provision of a specially designed social and rehabilitation centre to cater not only for Bedford Borough cases but also for those living in the surrounding area of Bedfordshire.
- (ii) Transport to bring handicapped persons from their homes into the Centre.
- (iii) To create public interest, understanding and participation in the work of helping the handicapped.



(iv) Provision of specialised housing for the physically handicapped.

The requirements for dealing with handicapped persons, whether blind, partially sighted, deaf, or hard of hearing, or physically handicapped, are much the same.

The handicapped tend to become more and more socially isolated, timid and lonely. Physical and mental deterioration tends to increase because of lack of activity and mental stimulation. The morale deteriorates and visitors and relations find the person more crotchety and difficult, thus creating a vicious circle.

These dangers must be counteracted by a home visiting service, both by voluntary organisations and individuals and by the appropriate officer of the Welfare Department.

Loneliness must be counteracted by bringing the handicapped back into society and it is here that participation in clubs and other activities are required. Furthermore, a suitably designed social and rehabilitation centre is required.

The following extracts from the "Report of the Ministry of Health" for the year ended 31st December, 1959, are relevant : —

"Local authorities are coming to realise the advantage of having an all-purpose social centre which can be used by people with different types of handicap rather than having small scattered groups meeting in premises which may not be very suitable. During the year under review (1959), four purpose-built social and craft centres and three specially adapted premises were opened, a greater number than in any previous year. Five of these cater for the blind and partially-sighted as well as other handicapped persons, and the provision of these comprehensive centres is much to be welcomed.

"The improvement in independence after a handicapped person has been attending a well-organised centre for some time is, in some instances, quite noticeable and there is a growing realisation that a person who is substantially and permanently handicapped may well be capable of a degree of rehabilitation which may fit him for admission to an industrial rehabilitation unit and even lead to employment in open industry.

"Transport of the handicapped person from his own home to the centre continues to be one of the major difficulties to be overcome, and many local authorities are buying specially designed and adapted vehicles (some fitted with hoists for wheel-chair cases) to surmount this."

There has been a tendency in this do-it-yourself age for sectional interests, e.g. parents of children with cerebral palsy, to band together to try and raise interest and funds for their group, and they have been very successful. There are now organisations for many diseases and conditions, blind, deaf, multiple sclerosis, mentally handicapped, etc.

The drive of many of these organisations has sprung in part from the inadequacy of existing arrangements and disbelief in the willingness of local authorities and hospitals to solve the problems, which are medical, educational and social.

There is, moreover, a point of great significance, the field for



recruiting voluntary, unpaid workers willing and able to bring a high standard of competence to their jobs is shrinking, voluntary organisations are increasingly employing paid officers.

Whether the handicapped are adequately housed in specially designed accommodation, properly trained to overcome or mitigate their handicap and brought out of the loneliness of their own homes, is a community responsibility in which voluntary effort should play an important, but nevertheless secondary, role.

## 2. *Blind*

A Home Teacher for the Blind was appointed and commenced duties on 1st August, 1961.

### **Report of the Home Teacher for the Blind**

#### Handicraft Classes : —

These are proving more popular, and the numbers are gradually increasing. Some of the people do not do much initially, but they have an outing, which gives them some mental stimulation, when they see other people doing things, some of them think that they would like to have a try and are surprised at their own progress. Now that transport is provided, it means that more people can come, and often it is the people who live alone who are benefiting from this. Another advantage is that they discuss their problems with each other and get fresh ideas. Two of the men have made small tools to help with various crafts and these have helped other blind people.

#### Visiting : —

There is a great need for more voluntary visitors. Very few of them have no one going to see them, but nevertheless they spend a lot of time on their own. Many use the Home Help Service and the Meals on Wheels, and recently I have received quite a few requests for the Chiropodist to call. Many of the people are elderly and are not able to get out because of arthritis or some similar condition. Most of the people have a certain amount of sight, and in many cases they manage to cope quite well with the housework.

#### Teaching of Braille and Moon : —

At present the parents of two blind schoolchildren are learning Braille, so that they can write to their children. There are also three blind people being given Braille instruction regularly. Ten people are learning Moon at present, and some of these are on Grade II Moon. There should be quite a few more people ready to join the Library by the end of 1962.

#### Handicrafts at Home : —

As well as the handicraft classes, quite a few people do handicrafts at home, some of these being things that are for sale. At present a number of people are making squares for blankets for refugees, and this

is a very useful occupation as it does not involve a large piece of knitting, and if mistakes are made it can be undone and started again. The people who have previously knitted dishcloths are now getting interested in doing something else.

#### Holidays : —

So far assisted holidays have been arranged for four people, and two other people are going away and paying their own expenses on holidays arranged through the Welfare Department.

#### Registration : —

Many new people are referred by the National Assistance Board, as when they are registered as blind it does mean an increase in their allowance. Quite a number of them have been referred by their friends.

#### Miscellaneous : —

When a person is first registered, they may be in need of a wireless, which can be obtained through the Wireless for the Blind Fund. They are also entitled to a free wireless licence. Any repairs that are needed to any wireless can be paid for by the North Bedfordshire Society for the Welfare of the Blind and they also make other small grants to needy people.

### 3. *Deaf*

Those persons who are deaf or hard of hearing are dealt with through the St. Albans Diocesan Mission to the Deaf and Dumb, a voluntary organisation.

### 4. *General Classes of Handicapped*

The "general classes" of handicapped persons embrace those suffering from amputations, injuries to the body, congenital malformation and deformities, arthritis and rheumatism, disseminated sclerosis, poliomyelitis, hemiplegia and other crippling disabilities as well as diseases of the digestive and genito-urinary systems, of the heart or circulatory system, of the respiratory system, and of the skin; epilepsy, neuroses and psychoses and other nervous and mental disorders, as well as respiratory and non-respiratory tuberculosis.

Although this Department can help with material things such as hoists to lift the paralysed, "Helping Hands", Zimmer walking frames, stocking pullers-on, alterations and adaptations to houses, supplying of sheds for invalid carriages, many of the problems handicapped persons are up against are of a social nature and they call on the Welfare Officer to help sort them out. This might entail exhaustive enquiries from other departments, but again brings contact with many organisations who have all proved to be extremely helpful. A great help has been the setting up of social clubs for the disabled. They are well attended and in many cases seeing the handicapped there and talking to them saves the Welfare Officer a home visit.



Since commencing her work the Welfare Officer has been asked to serve as a member of the Multiple Sclerosis Society Committee and the Bedford Association for the Disabled Committee and she has also been invited to join the British Federation of Business and Professional Women, of which she is now a member, and all these contacts are, of course, very valuable to the work in hand.

In view of the amount of work to be done the Public Health Committee approached the Central Council for the Care of Cripples who seconded an officer, Mrs. P. Ackroyd, whose terms of reference were : —

- (a) To help compile a fuller Register of the Handicapped within the Borough and ascertain their needs ;
- (b) Obtain a clear picture of work already being carried out by voluntary organisations ;
- (c) Explore needs that remain to be filled and see what means can be used to see they are covered and to stimulate effort ;
- (d) Pick up and deal with casework as and where it is found.

Mrs. Ackroyd tackled these jobs with great energy and enthusiasm and I wish to thank her for her most valuable contribution to the success of our Welfare Department.

#### WELFARE DEPARTMENT—PROGRESS REPORT.

	Register on Delegation	1961
General Classes ...	52	107
Blind ... ..	136	138
Deaf ... ..	23	28

In addition to this, handicraft classes have been started for the blind and social clubs for the physically handicapped and those attending have been most appreciative of these improvements.

## XII. CONCLUSION

The new trend in medicine should be towards early diagnosis and prevention. Pre-symptomatic diagnosis should be the aim. There are great opportunities in this field, diabetes, arterial disease, glaucoma, cancer of the cervix of the uterus and possibly other conditions cry out for this new approach. Yet the amount of money spent on this type of research is trivial and difficult to raise. The sword of knowledge forged in the teaching hospitals lies all too often little used, rusting for years before general application is made. Consider diphtheria, which is usually con-

sidered a triumph of preventive medicine. Effective immunising agents were available for years before the necessary money and organisation was set up to ensure that children were immunised : as a result of the community's apathy, thousands of children died unnecessarily from this disease ! These fantastic delays are an indication that the set-up for preventive medicine is inadequate.

Public health is to a large extent a problem in communication. If doctors are going to be able to use new techniques, they must be able to communicate by press, radio, television and use every morsel of expertise which public relations experts have to offer. This will cost money—inaction will, however, cost far more.



REPORT

OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

For the Year 1961

Telephone Nos.:  
Bedford 68777 and 2261.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
4 GOLDINGTON ROAD,  
BEDFORD.  
September, 1962.

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR,  
ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour and privilege to present my Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Inspectors for the year 1961. There have been no changes in staff which assists in maintaining continuity in the districts of the Borough.

The progress in slum clearance has been maintained and the second five year programme is proceeding. The poor response to the Government's appeal to improve investment properties by means of standard grants is most disappointing and it is sincerely felt that the only way to ensure that all houses possess these essential features is by the institution of the necessary legislation to enforce these provisions. It would then be possible, when systematic housing inspections were being carried out, to require the standard grant requirements by means of notice.

Houses let in lodgings have improved considerably over the last year, but it is still necessary to concentrate a great deal of the Inspectors' time on this type of property. Only by strict supervision and frequent inspections can a reasonable standard be maintained, and this necessitates frequent late night visits to ensure that overcrowding is not permitted. It is hoped that by the implementation of the Housing (Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation) Regulations, 1962, it will be possible to improve standards in these premises considerably.

It is disappointing to record that it has not been possible to institute the second Smoke Control Area to the north east of the Borough. After the hard work taken on the survey over the previous twelve months, including many hours' overtime on interviews and inspections in the evenings and weekends, the enthusiasm of the staff is reduced considerably as a result of the scheme not being put into operation. The first Smoke Control Area is operating satisfactorily, and although instances of bituminous coal burning have been discovered it has not been necessary to institute legal proceedings.

The Borough was selected to co-operate in the national scheme of smoke and sulphur dioxide daily recording stations. The instruments are sited in (a) Residential, high population density (Albert Street); (b) Residential, low population density (Barford Avenue); (c) Industrial Areas (Messrs. W. H. Allen, Sons & Co. Ltd.); (d) Commercial Area (Public Library); (e) A Smoke Control Area (Merlin Gardens). The graphs indicate quite clearly that the residential high population density is responsible for the greatest atmospheric pollution at low level, and foggy days are clearly shown by the great increase in smoke which



cannot disperse freely. The institution of smoke control areas is the best practical means of clearing the atmosphere of smoke.

The good co-operation between the industrialists and the Department has been maintained and applications for prior approval have been made in respect of all new furnaces. In no instance has it been necessary to institute legal proceedings in respect of smoke nuisances.

The implementation of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958 and Regulations has resulted in only one modern slaughterhouse being situated within the Borough. This arrangement has ensured 100% full carcase inspection and if it becomes necessary to mark meat after inspection this will be facilitated by concentration in one slaughterhouse. The new slaughterhouse in the adjoining Urban District has been in operation since October and the meat inspection has been performed by the Borough Inspectors, as up to 50% of the production is sold within the Borough. It is thus pleasing to report that all slaughtering is carried out in excellent premises under hygienic conditions.

The standard of hygiene in food premises has continued to improve, particularly in the construction of new premises. There is a definite change in the pattern of food premises with the advent of self service in many stores. Unless strict supervision is maintained it is possible that perishable foods such as bread, cakes and prepared meat products will not be sold in rotation. This has resulted in the institution of legal proceedings in cases where mouldy foods have been sold. It is essential that all display cases containing perishable foods should be emptied daily to prevent fresh deliveries being placed on top of the previous day's supplies. This would prevent the sale of mouldy foods which have been left on display.

The Food Hygiene Courses organised by the Committee have continued and 159 students have now passed the examination. Many employers have purchased the badge, approved by the Committee, for their employees who have been successful in the Food Hygiene Examination.

A considerable amount of time has been devoted to research in connection with surveys carried out by the Public Health Laboratory in an endeavour to determine the extent of salmonella infections in slaughterhouses and butchers' shops. A new type was discovered and this was named salmonella "Bedford".

I wish to record my sincere thanks to the members of the Council, particularly to the members of the Public Health Committee, for their appreciation and co-operation in the work which has been undertaken; to the Medical Officer of Health and all the other Chief Officers and their staffs for their willing help and advice; and to my Deputy, the Public Health Inspectors, the clerical and outdoor staff for their conscientious and loyal support throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

E. AVISON,

*Chief Public Health Inspector.*

# Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

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## 1. HOUSING ACT, 1957

### (A) UNFIT HOUSES

During 1961, 133 houses and 6 parts of buildings were represented as unfit. 92 of these properties were owned by the Council and 47 were in private ownership.

The actual number of demolitions during the year was 95, whilst 3 houses and 4 parts of houses were closed. 73 of the properties demolished were owned by the Council and of the 22 privately owned houses 2 had previously been subject to Closing Orders, and 10 were included in Clearance Areas confirmed during 1960.

An undertaking was accepted from the owner of 2 houses in Melbourne Street that the properties would be rendered fit to the satisfaction of the Local Authority. At the end of the year this work had not been completed.

A similar undertaking was accepted in respect of a house in Bunyan Road, but this property was sold and subsequently demolished.

An inspection of Nos. 36 and 37 Tavistock Place was made by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the Clearance Order confirmed.

As will be realised substantial progress has been made in dealing with the Slum Clearance Programme. In my last report I anticipated that all unfit dwellings in the Central Redevelopment Area would have been dealt with by the end of 1961. This was not quite achieved although only a few houses remain in this area. The properties now being represented as unfit are mainly situated in the Pilcroft Street and "Black Tom" areas.

97 families consisting of 277 persons were displaced from unfit dwellings during the year, the majority of families being rehoused by the Housing Committee, the remainder making their own arrangements.

### (B) OVERCROWDING

One overcrowding case was discovered during 1961. This does not include overcrowding in houses let in lodgings, to which reference is made in the next section.

Overcrowding occurred due to sub-letting of rooms to a family (relatives of the owner/occupier) consisting of man, wife and three children. Upon service of an informal notice to abate overcrowding the sub-tenants found alternative accommodation.



### (C) HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS

At the end of 1961, 598 houses were known to be occupied as houses let in lodgings and were occupied by 3,984 adults and 1,507 children.

The various nationalities occupying these dwellings are given at the end of this report.

During the year 1961, 1,012 inspections were made and 11 statutory notices served in respect of overcrowding. There is no doubt that houses owned by Italian nationals have improved tremendously over the past few years and many of the smaller properties are now occupied by one family only.

Houses occupied by Pakistanis and Indians tend to be overcrowded and I very much doubt whether there are sufficient bed spaces for the number of these nationals who reside in the town. One feels that if a house is not heavily occupied the residents inform their relatives and friends and the numbers in occupation inevitably increase. The new Immigration Act may well help in controlling the number of these immigrants.

It has been found that the only successful way of carrying out a check on the occupants of a house is to visit around midnight on a Sunday. During weekdays several of the men may be working a night-shift and the numbers at the time of the visit invariably are less than the permitted number.

Two prosecutions were instituted for overcrowding, both cases were proved and the defendants fined a total of £8 (i.e. £2 each room).

At the end of the year the Housing Act, 1961 came into operation. This gave the Minister power to make provision for ensuring that the person managing a house which is let in lodgings or which is occupied by more than one family, observe proper standards of management. The Regulations were not made until 1962. This Act also increased the penalty for permitting overcrowding to a fine not exceeding £20 for a first offence and where the defendant has been convicted of a previous offence, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to a fine not exceeding £100, or both.

60 applications were received from Italian nationals for a certificate stating that sufficient accommodation was available for families wishing to come from Italy to reside in Bedford. These were dealt with as follows :

Approved	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Refused	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

### (D) OPERATION " RESCUE "

As it was apparent that certain residential areas of the town were deteriorating and that the multiple occupation of large houses in these areas was the principal reason for the decline, the Council approved a scheme for the " rescue " of such properties. It was decided to approach the owners of houses let in lodgings in St. Augustine's Road and St. Michael's Road and in part of St. Andrew's Road to see whether they

would sell their properties to the Council : any properties purchased to be converted into flats or let to one family. At the same time, the owners of houses used as flats but not properly converted were informed of the proposals for the area and encouraged to undertake conversion schemes with the aid of improvement grants.

At the end of 1961 the Council owned 10 houses in the area, six properties (four of which were previously houses let in lodgings) having been purchased during the year. In addition, negotiations were proceeding for other houses.

A survey was made of the houses in Warwick Avenue and in September, 1961 I made a recommendation, which was accepted by the Housing Committee and the Council, that Warwick Avenue should be included in Operation "Rescue". Negotiations for several properties were in progress at the end of the year.

This scheme should prove to be of real benefit to the town and the improvements become apparent when it is possible to proceed with the conversion of houses which have been purchased.

#### (E) IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The Borough Engineer is responsible for the scheme of Improvement Grants which has resulted in many houses being provided with bathrooms and hot water systems. 100 Improvement Grants were made by the Council during 1961, but by far the majority of these grants were to owner occupiers and not to owners of rented properties.

#### (F) PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

59 properties in redevelopment areas have been purchased on behalf of the Council.

### II. RENT ACT, 1957

Only five applications for certificates of disrepair were received, four of which were approved in respect of some but not all the defects listed by the tenant, and the fifth application was not dealt with until 1962.

### III. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

#### (A) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

183 drains were tested on complaint or as a result of rat infestation and where necessary repairs to or reconstruction of the drains were carried out. At 327 premises the drains were cleared of blockages.

In a large number of investigations it is found that the drains are in fact sewers vested in the Borough Council. After service of notices in accordance with Section 24 of the Act, the repairs are carried out by the local authority, the cost subsequently being recharged to the owners of the houses. Thirty-six Section 24 notices were served and at 3 of these houses it was necessary to serve notices requiring the repair of private drainage which was defective.



In addition, 3 applications were received for drains to be tested and a report issued at the time of the sale of a property. In these cases a fee of two guineas each was charged. 3 drains were defective and subsequently repaired.

#### (B) WATER SUPPLY

The eight almshouses in St. Loyes Street were demolished and as a result there now remain only six houses in the Borough which do not have an internal water supply. These are the six cottages at Biddenham Ford End where only one external standpipe is available for the occupants. These cottages are scheduled for inspection when a decision will be required as to whether the properties should be demolished, or repaired and provided with adequate water supply and, in addition, sanitary accommodation connected to a sewer.

#### (C) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

All houses have separate closet accommodation and most properties in the town have water closets connected to the public sewer, the exception being Biddenham Ford End Cottages mentioned in the previous paragraph and a few houses and small factories where the sewer is not available.

Demolitions have reduced the number of houses which have W.C.s at the end of the garden. The estimate is now 270 and this includes the almshouses in Dame Alice Street.

#### (D) OTHER AMENITIES

Some 3,400 houses are without fixed baths, a figure which reduces each year as houses are demolished and bathrooms provided in old, but sound, properties.

The number of houses which have no secondary means of access remains at 65.

#### (E) PUBLIC HOUSES

The Rose and Crown Public House was closed during 1961, being demolished in 1962. A new licensed premises (The Bird in Hand) was opened on the Brickhill Estate. The alterations to the Kings Arms were completed and improvements carried out at several other houses.

#### (F) PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT

Inspections are made of the buildings in the town which are used for entertainment and these were found to be reasonably well maintained.

#### (G) MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

##### (i) *Fair and Circus Grounds*

Visits are made to the fairs and circuses visiting Bedford. Those visited in 1961 were satisfactory.

## (ii) *Licensed Sites*

A site licence is in force in respect of one caravan at 1 Goldington Green, but contains a condition that should the caravan be removed or vacated, no other caravan can be placed on the site nor any other person allowed to occupy the van.

A similar licence was in force for one caravan in Bury Walk. This van was sold during the year and a licence expiring at the end of 1961 was granted pending proposals being submitted for the development of the land.

In addition, inspections are made of caravans being occupied by persons employed on building operations. A number of such caravans have been stationed in the town and are exempt from the requirement to obtain a site licence.

Complaints were received regarding caravans occupying land in Pilcroft Street. Indeed on one occasion a scrap metal dealer had set up a car breaker's business. So far it has not been necessary to take legal action to remove these vans, persuasion has succeeded.

An application was received to station two caravans at "The Swan," Goldington, but on reference to the Town Planning Committee permission was refused. This Committee also authorised the service of an enforcement notice in respect of two vans stationed in Cauldwell Walk. Vans at these two sites were subsequently removed by their owners.

## (H) FILTHY OR VERMINOUS PREMISES

A few complaints in respect of bed bugs were dealt with during the year. In two cases new furniture in post-war houses was involved. No previous infestation had occurred in these properties and no secondhand furniture had been purchased. At one house the furniture was on hire purchase and after service of a notice under Section 84 of the Public Health Act the agreement for purchase was cancelled and the Furniture Store (not in Bedford) requested destruction of the articles.

It was also necessary to serve a notice under Section 84 requiring the occupier of a house to cleanse the property which had been allowed to deteriorate into a filthy state.

## (I) DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

### (i) *Disinfection*

Difficulty was experienced with the disinfector which was installed at the end of 1960 and a claim in respect of damage to articles was received. This was referred to and dealt with by the Council's insurance company. After considerable delay the distributor in the disinfector was modified and the machine is now satisfactory. Disinfection of bedding, etc., is undertaken after infectious illness, free of charge, and in other cases on request when a charge is made.

A claim for damage was also received following the disinfection of the contents of a room. This was also referred to the insurance company.



(ii) *Disinfestation*

The work of destroying insect pests is carried out by the Department and normally no charge is made. In view of the numerous requests to destroy wasps nests, the Public Health Committee decided to make a charge of 10s. 0d. for this service. Persons in receipt of old age pension or a National Assistance Allowance are not required to pay this charge. 42 wasps nests were destroyed.

(J) STATUTORY NOTICES

Statutory notices are issued only after the person concerned has failed to comply with the requirements of an informal notice. During 1961 it was necessary to serve 21 statutory notices in respect of contraventions of the Public Health Act, 1936. This figure does not include notices served under Sections 24 and 39 of the Act which require the repair or reconstruction of sewers or drains.

**IV. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955**

(A) FOOD PREMISES

Inspection of the various food premises in the town is routine and one is aware of the desire of most food handlers to maintain a clean and satisfactory service to their customers.

New food shops are opening in the Central Area and shops in other parts of the town are being modernised. The opportunity is taken when plans are submitted to the Town Planning Committee to ensure that the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations are complied with.

Food vans can commence trading in the town without the submission of plans, but these vehicles are inspected and I feel some improvement in the condition of these vehicles has taken place.

(B) MARKETS

The open market on which are situated 46 food stalls has given rise to very few problems. Although smoking whilst handling food does occur occasionally, the majority of the stallholders do realise that this is a bad practice and normally withdraw from serving when smoking. It has not been necessary to institute legal proceedings in this respect during the past year or in respect of depositing food on the ground.

By constant supervision the food stalls are operated satisfactorily in view of the fact that they are situated in the open and compare most favourably with similar markets in other localities.

The provision of hot water has assisted in maintaining a reasonable standard and, of course, the artificial lighting has proved a real asset in the display of food and in maintaining this standard.

(C) ICE CREAM

The number of premises registered is as follows :

Manufacturers	...	...	...	2
Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	216

Samples are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory (North Wing) and the results were as follows :

	No. of Samples	Percentage
Grade 1—Satisfactory ...	42	84.0
Grade 2—Fairly Satisfactory ...	6	12.0
Grade 3—Unsatisfactory ...	2	4.0
Grade 4—Very Unsatisfactory ...	—	—
	<hr/> 50	

The Public Health Laboratory Service state that it is unwise to pay too much attention to the bacteriological results of any single sample. Judgement should be based on a series of samples. It is suggested that over a six-monthly period, 50% of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1, 80% into Grades 1 and 2, and not more than 20% into Grade 3, and none into Grade 4.

#### (D) SAMPLING—MILK AND OTHER FOODS

During the year 185 samples of milk and other food were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination.

Following upon an adverse report on an informal sample of milk taken at a dairy, formal samples (23 in number) were procured on delivery to the dairy. Although most of the samples were below the presumptive standard for genuine milk the analyst was of the opinion that the deficiencies were not caused by the addition of water.

An informal sample of Jersey milk taken from a vending machine was reported upon as containing 3.12% of fat as against the standard of 4% for this class of milk. Subsequent samples taken during 1961 were satisfactory.

A complaint was received in respect of a " Winter Mixture " sweet which was stated " to burn the tongue ". The analyst reported that the sample contained a substance resembling capsicum and recommended that the properties of this warm tasting ingredient be reduced, a course to which the manufacturer agreed.

Details of other samples reported upon by the Analyst as being not genuine are given at the end of this report, together with a list of foods about which complaints were received from the public and the action taken.

#### (E) FOOD HYGIENE COURSES

It is very pleasing to know that the food manufacturing firms, shops and catering establishments are supporting the Committee in continuing to persuade members of their staff to attend these courses. Since its inception in 1957, 159 students have passed the examination and have been awarded Certificates. The presentation of these Certificates was carried out by the Mayor, Alderman A. H. Randall and the successful students certainly appreciated the Mayor taking an interest in their endeavours, as these courses are held in the evenings at Mander College.

In addition to these courses, a local firm continued to hold courses of instruction on their own premises during working hours and there



is no doubt that a considerable interest is created by holding the courses on the premises where the students are employed.

There is certainly a growing appreciation both by management and employees of the need to exercise good food handling practices and the public are certainly becoming aware of deficiencies in this particular field.

## **V. MILK AND DAIRIES (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1959 MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1949-1960**

Bedford is included in a Specified Area in which all milk sold must be Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised.

There is only one pasteurising dairy bottling milk in the town and most of the milk sold in the Borough comes from three premises : the dairy just mentioned, one situated in the Bedford Rural District and one in Huntingdonshire.

The sale of milk from refrigerated vending machines continues and samples from this source were disappointing as 18.9% failed to satisfy the Methylene Blue Test. The attention of the producer has been drawn to these unsatisfactory samples and the Area Milk Officer notified and it is hoped that the results of samples taken during 1962 will show an improvement.

In all 303 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory and 21 failed the prescribed tests (6.9%).

During 1961 12 premises were registered as distributors of milk, making a total of 96 so registered.

## **VI. SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1958 SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1958**

At the end of 1960 there were 6 premises in the Borough licensed as slaughterhouses and at the end of the year only one slaughterhouse remained, i.e. Canvin's Abattoir in Windsor Road, which was opened in 1959.

Messrs. W. H. Daniels Ltd. closed their slaughterhouse in St. Mary's Street when a new abattoir was opened in October, 1961. This slaughterhouse is situated in the area of the Kempston Urban District Council. By arrangements made with that Council, meat inspection at this abattoir has been undertaken by Inspectors of the Borough Council.

Once again there has been an increase in the number of animals slaughtered and inspected.

During the year 25 licences were issued to slaughtermen.

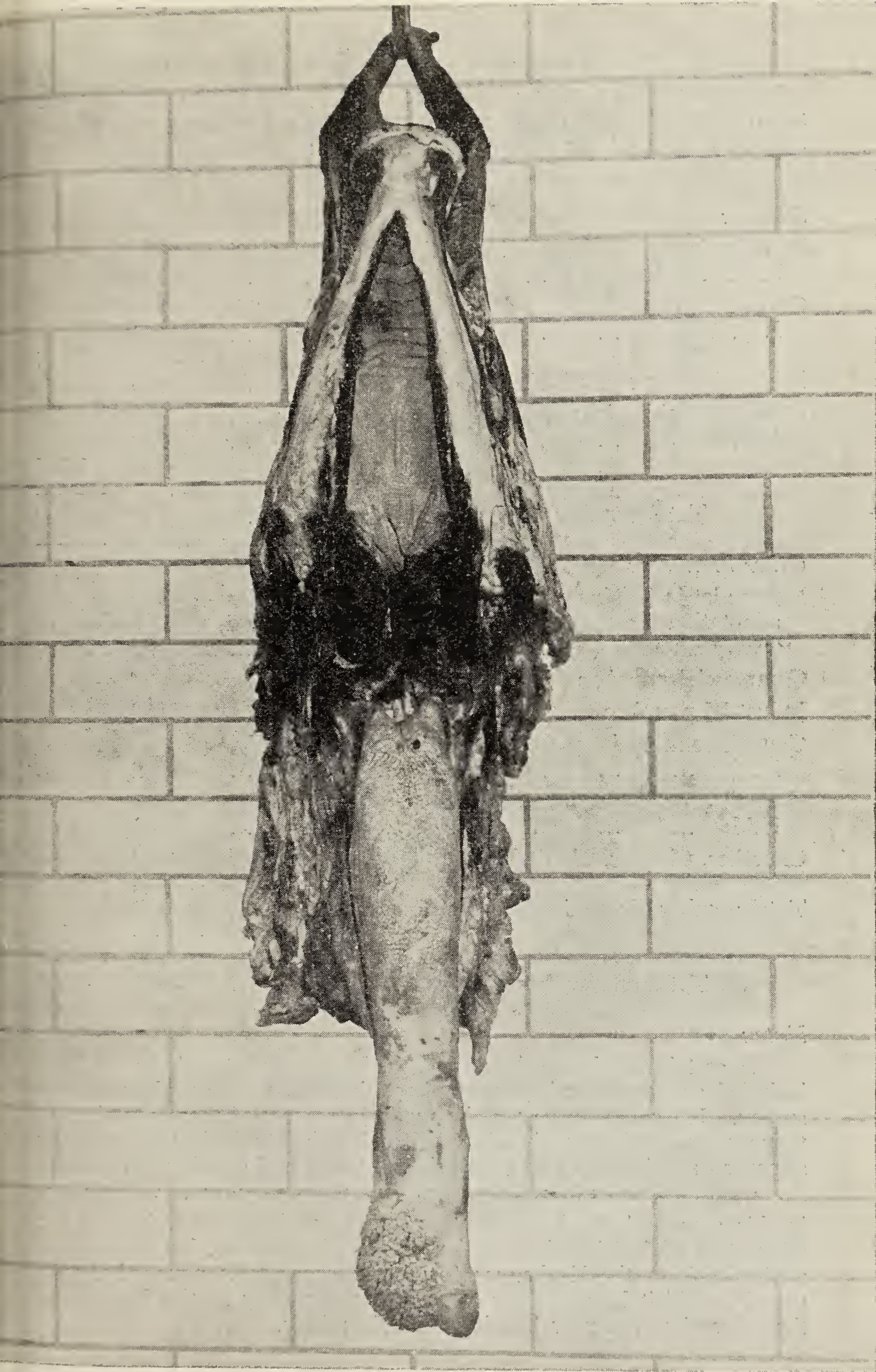
The photographs show an interesting specimen found as a result of routine meat inspection.

A beautiful example of fairly extensive papillomatosis discovered on an ox tongue. A benign form of tumour not uncommonly found in the pharynx, oesophagus and skin of cattle : can be transmitted from animal to animal but not to man.











## VII. CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

The detailed survey of the proposed smoke control area to the north east of the Borough was completed during the year and the summary revealed the following information :

### Summary

#### *Survey :*

Dwelling-houses, flats and bed-sitting rooms, erected before 5th July, 1956 ... ..	2,162	
Council dwelling-houses and flats erected before 5th July, 1956 ... ..	673	
	<hr/>	2,835
Private houses erected after 5th July, 1956 ... ..	776	
Council dwelling-houses and flats erected after 5th July, 1956 ... ..	309	
	<hr/>	1,085
Total number of dwellings in survey ...		<hr/> 3,920 <hr/>

#### *Other Premises :*

Houses let in lodgings excluded from contribution for adaptation as they are not regarded as private dwelling-houses ... ..	35	
Commercial premises ... ..	83	
Industrial premises ... ..	15	
Council commercial premises erected before 5th July, 1956 ... ..	9	
Council commercial premises erected after 5th July, 1956 ... ..	10	
Churches, Chapels, Charitable Institutions and Schools	19	
	<hr/>	
Total number of premises surveyed in the area ...	171	
	<hr/>	171
Total of premises surveyed ... ..		<hr/> 4,091 <hr/>

#### *Note :*

A certain number of houses on the Haylands Estate have not been included as they were in course of erection and unoccupied at time of survey. No contribution will be made in respect of these premises as they were erected after 5th July, 1956, and subject to the byelaw requiring approved appliances to be installed for heating and cooking purposes.

There are 19 Churches, Chapels, Charitable Institutions and Schools in this area and the Local Authority may make contributions to the adaptation of fuel burning appliances at such premises, but no grant is available from the Exchequer for this purpose. At none of the 19 premises will it be necessary to expend any money as the furnaces at these premises are now burning smokeless fuels.



The survey also revealed that the following tonnage of fuel was being used at the present time :

							Tons	Tons	
“ Bituminous Coal ” which will have to be replaced by smokeless fuel :									
Domestic	...	...	...	...	...	...		4,390	
Industrial	...	...	...	...	...	...		2,772	
Smokeless Fuels :									
Coke	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,421		
Anthracite	...	...	...	...	...	...	499		
Rexco	...	...	...	...	...	...	275		
Coalite	...	...	...	...	...	...	292		
Cleanglow		...	...	...	...	...	33		
Warmco	...	...	...	...	...	...	47		
Phurnacite		...	...	...	...	...	145		
							<hr/>	3,712	
Total tonnage per annum								...	<hr/> 10,874

Costs of Implementation of the Scheme :

							£	s.	d.
New appliances	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,875	0	0
Adaptations	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,505	2	0
Gas and electrical adaptations				...	...	...	10,432	7	0
Electrical ignition	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,740	16	0
Estimated 94 properties which it has not been possible to inspect		...	...	...	...	...	1,794	19	0
Total							<hr/> £28,348	4	0 <hr/>

Say : £28,349.

This cost to be met by :

							£	s.	d.
(a) Owner or Occupier—30%	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,504	14	0
(b) Local Authority—30%	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,504	14	0
(c) Ministry of Housing and Local Government—40%	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,339	12	0
							<hr/> £28,349	0	0 <hr/>

Prior approval has been sought in respect of one gas-fired boiler, one coke-fired boiler and six oil-fired boilers.

Excellent co-operation has been obtained from industrialists in the Borough who genuinely support the Council in the enforcement of the Clean Air Act.

The Brickhill smoke control area, the first to be instituted in the Borough, has given rise to little complaint over the past twelve months although one type of premium fuel was in short supply. In instances where occupiers were unable to obtain the fuel of their choice, arrangements were made for alternative smokeless fuels to be provided and the

arrangement with the local Coal Merchants Federation concerning complaints of lack of approved smokeless fuels has operated very satisfactorily. In no instances was it found impossible to obtain the approved smokeless fuels when the Federation was approached.

The Alkali Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, who is responsible for the supervision of certain types of plant, was approached in respect of the nuisance caused by the oil-gas plant at the local Gas Works, and also nuisance from dust from the stock-piling of coke. There is no doubt that this modern oil-gas plant gives rise to more complaints than the traditional method of gas production. The complaints are, in the main, due to the fumes emitted during gas production processes. It is hoped that the suggestions of the Alkali Inspector will be carried out and there will be an improvement which will result in the reduction of the offensive fumes produced.

The Goldington Power Station has operated with a minimum of nuisance throughout the past year but great difficulty is experienced at this station due to the low quality of fuel supplied and the fact that this is not a continuous operating station and the frequent shut-downs and recommencing of production gives rise to serious problems which do create a nuisance. The Alkali Inspector appears to be satisfied that this station is being operated as efficiently as possible under difficult circumstances.

Owing to the replacement of steam locomotives by diesel units there has been an improvement in the pollution caused by the smoke from the marshalling sheds at Midland Road Station. It is hoped that the Transport Commission's policy of modernisation will, in the not too distant future, replace all coal-fired engines by diesel units. This will result in a considerable improvement in the atmospheric pollution from this source.

During the year the Council were approached by the Warren Spring Laboratory of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research to agree to take part in the National Survey. In this survey approximately 100 authorities were asked to provide continuous smoke and sulphur dioxide recording apparatus in five different localities, as follows :

- Business and commercial area ;
- Industrial area ;
- Low density residential area ;
- High density residential area ;
- Smoke control area.

The graph indicates the pollution levels at these stations.

It is surprising the difference between the heavy density area selected and the Brickhill smoke control area and the effect that fog has on the Borough when there is little air movement.

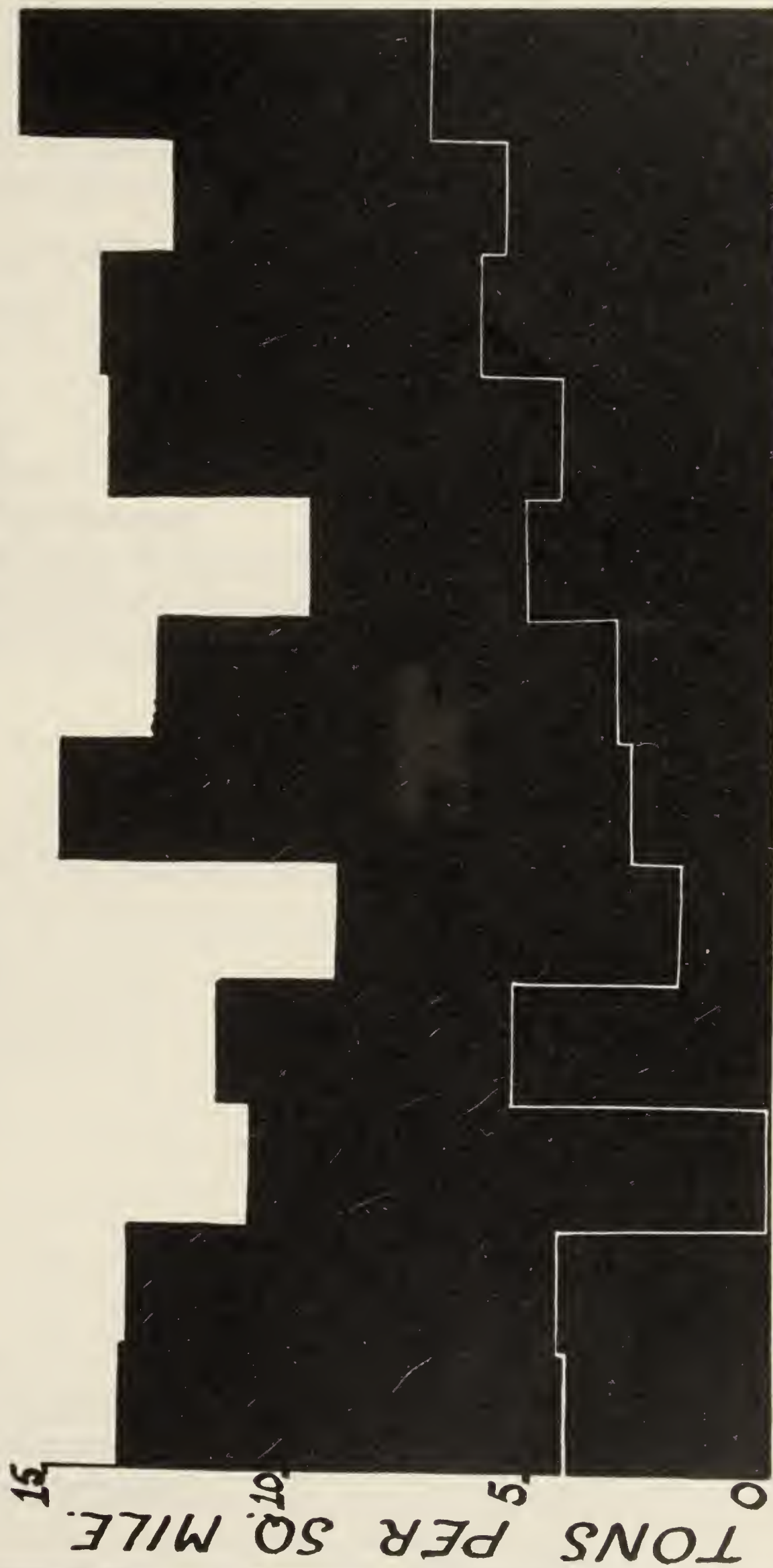
The purpose of the National Survey is to compare various areas throughout the country and to obtain information as to the improvement in the elimination of smoke due to the operation of the Clean Air Act with particular reference to domestic pollution.



# MONTHLY DEPOSITS 1961.

## IN TONS PER SQUARE MILE.

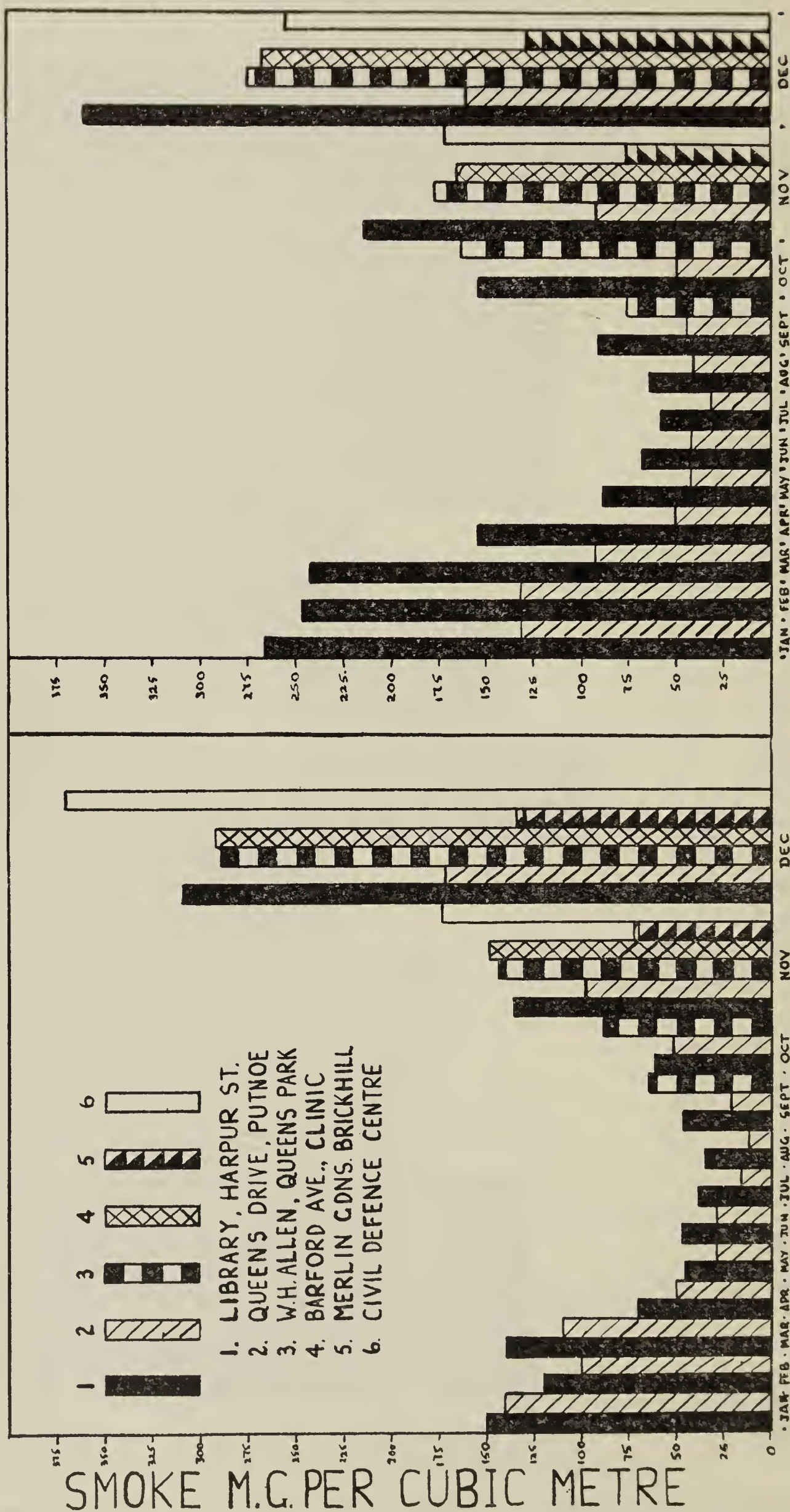
### MANDER COLLEGE.



0 RAINFALL IN INCHES.  
1  
2  
3

JAN. FEB. MAR. APR. MAY JUNE JULY AUG. SEPT. OCT. NOV. DEC.

# SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE CONCENTRATION FOR 1961.



M.G. = MICROGRAMMES



## **VIII. FACTORIES ACT, 1957**

215 inspections under this Act were made to premises within the Borough. The majority are factories with mechanical power and consequently only the section relating to the sanitary conveniences is administered by the Borough.

It was necessary to serve 13 notices which, in the main, required the cleansing of sanitary accommodation.

## **IX. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949**

In April routine test and poison baiting of the sewers was undertaken but in September instead of using one of the normal poisons, the Council agreed to the treatment of the sewers with sodium flouracetate. Some 200 manholes, mainly in the centre of the town, were treated and approximately 600 rat bodies were removed by the screens at the Sewage Pumping Station. This number was far in excess of any visible evidence of previous treatments.

Treatment for rodents at private houses is carried out free whilst at business premises contracts are made and 15/- per man hour charged. 63 contracts were entered into and the sum of £155 19s. 0d. received.

## **X. OTHER ACTS**

### **1. Noise Abatement Act, 1960**

The above-mentioned Act has not resulted in a great deal of interest. The only direct benefit received from this Act is that ice-cream vendors have been restricted in the use of chimes and should now only use them between the hours of 12 noon and 7 p.m. of the same day. This benefits, in the main, parents of young children who are not disturbed when put to bed and night workers who are not disturbed by visits of ice-cream vendors to their area before 12 noon.

A complaint was received in respect of saws at a Refrigerator Manufacturing Company but numerous visits did not reveal that the noise was excessive and could be said to create a nuisance.

In view of this Act it will be necessary to consider very carefully the siting of factories which could give rise to noise nuisance as in many processes it is impossible to eliminate noise where factories are erected in close proximity to dwelling-houses. A great deal of research will have to be carried out in order to obtain a simple but accurate noise meter which can easily be used when complaints are received.

### **2. Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951**

Five premises are registered. Five samples of rag flock were submitted for analysis and were found to be satisfactory.

### 3. Pet Animals Act, 1951

Five premises are registered and all are satisfactorily maintained.

### 4. National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 50

#### BURIAL OF THE DEAD

Burial of the bodies of three persons was undertaken as no other arrangements for interment had been made.

No.	Age	Sex	Cost of Burial	Recovery of Expense
			£ s. d.	
1	81	M	11 2 6	No death grant payable. Total assets £7 6s. 10d.
2	71	M	11 2 6	Death grant. Full cost recovered.
3	55	M	11 2 6	Death grant. Full cost recovered.

### 5. Shops Act, 1950

Section 38 of this Act relates to the health and comfort of the shop workers. Visits are made to shops to ensure that the requirements of the Act are being complied with, and opportunity is taken of inspecting plans for new shops or for alterations to existing premises. If necessary the owner or the architect is contacted and guidance is given where the plans indicate that the requirements of the Act are not fully met.

## XI. MISCELLANEOUS

### 1. Public Conveniences

A considerable number of complaints were received during the year concerning the old obsolete conveniences still in use. The Public Health Committee has decided on a phased programme of new conveniences but it has not been possible to replace all the obsolete premises by new ones.

During the year the conveniences in conjunction with the multi-storey car park have been opened and showers provided for males and females in place of the domestic baths previously used. These conveniences are excellent in that wash-hand basins, hot and cold water and paper towels are provided for the use of the public.

It is very disappointing when new conveniences are opened to the public that so much wilful damage is caused. This results, as in the case of the St. Paul's Square conveniences, in a considerable expense in the employment of attendants for unnecessarily long hours. It does appear that the only conveniences which can be provided with modern



facilities—hot water, paper towels and free washing facilities—are those under the control of attendants.

## **2. Almshouses**

During the year eight almshouses in St. Loyes were demolished and the site subsequently sold. These almshouses are to be replaced by a modern block of flats situated on the Embankment in ideal surroundings for elderly persons.

The Dame Alice almshouses are not to be demolished as was thought at one time but are to be thoroughly modernised and it is hoped will provide ideal housing units for elderly persons. It is expected that this modernisation will take place in the not too distant future although it will result in a reduction in the number of elderly persons' houses.

## **3. Public Health Education**

During the year the Public Health Inspectors have devoted a considerable amount of time to work of an educational nature in connection with food hygiene, the Clean Air Act and houses let in lodgings.

A number of lectures have been given to various organisations concerning the work of the department and I am of the opinion that these are a very important aspect of the Inspectors' duties. By such talks and discussions it is possible to improve public relations and obtain the co-operation of members of the public.

## **4. General**

Complaints were received regarding snakes in the Brickhill and Putnoe areas. In all cases these were grass snakes.

Several swans were found dead by the Park Rangers and one was forwarded to the Clinical Pathology Laboratory of the University of Cambridge who undertook the post mortem examination of the bird, and who reported :

“ The cause of death was a very severe infection of the respiratory system by *Aspergillus* (probably *fumigatus*) which is a common infection of poultry and to a lesser extent of other stock, reared intensively, and mouldy bedding can contribute to the build-up of infection.”

A copy of this report was forwarded to the Parks Superintendent.

Steam issuing through the kitchen floor of one house and from the garden of next door caused concern to the residents in Mabel Road. It was found that steam was being discharged into an old culvert at a nearby factory, the culvert passing under Mabel Road. Action was taken to abate this nuisance.





XII.

# Statistical Tables

# 1. Housing

## (A) ACTION TAKEN DURING 1961

### 1. *Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year :*

(1)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	608
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	140
(3)	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerously injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	139
(4)	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	127

### 2. *Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :*

	Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	75
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### 3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :*

#### (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957—

(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	1
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a)	By Owners ... ..	—
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	—

#### (a) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	60
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a)	By Owners ... ..	17
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	60

#### (c) Proceedings under Sections 16, 17 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1957—

(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which demolition orders were made ... ..	6
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders ... ..	10
(3)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which closing orders were made ... ..	3
(4)	Number of dwellinghouses where closing orders were in force but which have been demolished ... ..	2

#### (d) Proceedings under Section 44 of the Housing Act, 1957—

	Number of dwellinghouses included in clearance areas demolished ... ..	10
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(e) Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made ...	4
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	—
(f) Number of Council-owned properties demolished ...	73

(B) SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME—PROGRESS SINCE 1955

Number of houses included in Programme	...	...	...	920
Number of houses demolished	...	...	...	575
Number of houses closed	...	...	...	33
				<hr/> 608
Number of houses still to be dealt with	...	...	...	312

2. Houses Let in Lodgings

Number of premises occupied as Houses Let in Lodgings as at 31st December, 1961	...	...	...	...	...	...	598
Number of persons occupying these premises :							
Adults	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,984
Children	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,507
							<hr/>
Total Persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,491

OCCUPANTS BY NATIONALITIES

	Adults	Children
English	299	72
Americans	30	9
British West Indians	531	129
Czechs	6	—
Russians	1	—
Germans	3	—
Greeks	1	—
Hungarians	31	9
Indians	165	4
Irish	199	43
Italians	2,187	1,094
Latvians	51	9
Lithuanians	2	—
Maltese	4	—
Nigerian	3	—
Pakistanis	180	29
Poles	144	48
Roumanians	2	2
Austrians	2	1
Spaniards	4	—
Ukrainians	31	6
Yugoslavs	96	52
Arabs (Aden)	5	—
Chinese	7	—

### 3. Rent Act, 1957

#### APPLICATIONS DEALT WITH DURING 1961

Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	5*
Number of applications approved	...	...	4
Number of applications refused	...	...	—
Number of undertakings from owners accepted	...	...	2
Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued	...	...	2
Number of applications for Cancellation of Certificate of Disrepair	...	...	3
Number of applications approved	...	...	3
Number of of applications refused	...	...	—
Number of applications from owner for Certificate that Undertaking had been carried out	...	...	2
Number of applications approved	...	...	2
Number of of applications refused	...	...	—

\* Includes an application received but not finally dealt with until 1962.

### 4. Food Inspection

#### (A) NO. OF PREMISES

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Brewery and Soft Drink Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Canteens (school and works)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Chemists and Druggists	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Confectioners (flour)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Confectioners (sugar)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Fishmongers (including fish friers)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Flour Mills	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Food Storage Depots	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Grocery and Provisions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	168
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
Sweet and Chocolate Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

In addition there are forty-six food stalls on the Market Square, as follows—

Confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fruit and Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Poultry	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1



(B) SAMPLES SENT TO PUBLIC ANALYST

Purchases

<i>Nature of Sample</i>	Formal	Informal
Cream ... ..	—	1
Cakes and Pastries ... ..	—	3
Cheese and Cheese Preparations ... ..	—	7
Fish, Tinned, and Fish Pastes ... ..	—	3
Fruit Drinks and Juices ... ..	—	4
Groceries, Miscellaneous ... ..	1	37
Ice Cream ... ..	—	3
Meat and Meat Products ... ..	—	18
Medicines and Drugs ... ..	—	6
Milk ... ..	31	70
Milk, Flavoured ... ..	—	1
Sausages and Sausage Meat ... ..	1	1
Sweets ... ..	—	1
	33	155

(C) SAMPLES REPORTED TO BE NOT GENUINE OR OTHERWISE  
GIVING RISE TO IRREGULARITY

Sample No.		Commodity	Nature of Adulteration	Remarks
Formal	Informal			
401-423	362	Winter Mixture Sweets	Analyst reported that sample contained a substance resembling capsicum and recommended that proportion of "warm" tasting ingredient be reduced.	Communicated with Manufacturers who decided to reduce amount of capsicum in this "Winter" Mixture.
	394	Milk	Analyst of the opinion that sample contained at least 5% of added water.	Informal sample of milk delivered to a dairy. See samples Nos. 401-423 inclusive. Farmer, Dairy, County Public Health Inspector and Area Milk Officer informed.
		Milk	Analyst's opinion that although most of these samples were below the presumptive standard for genuine milk he formed the opinion that the deficiencies were not caused by the addition of water. In view of the general composition he suggested that these samples should be classed as abnormal milk of poor quality.	
	B.447	Apricot Jam	Analyst reported that the sample contained soluble solids of at least 62.5%. The Food Standards (Preserves) Order, 1953, requires Apricot Jam to contain at least 65%.	Jam produced in Hungary and Importers have notified factory that requirements of Food & Drugs Act must be strictly adhered to.



B.449	Dry Fry	Analyst reported that the sample was an "Aerosol" product containing an oil resembling soya bean oil in an organic liquid solvent. The label states that it added no calories to food and was a "wonderful aid to slimming". The ingredients should be shown and the article should conform with the labelling of Food Order. The references to the reduction of fattening calories and to slimming are not justified and should be deleted.	Manufacturers stated that sample was old stock and for some considerable time the product has borne a different label.
472	Milk (Jersey)	Analyst reports that Jersey milk should contain not less than 4% fat. The sample is therefore deficient in fat to the extent of 22%.	Subsequent formal samples were satisfactory.
479	Flavoured Milk Drink	Slightly sour. Analyst of opinion that sample was unpalatable and therefore not of the quality demanded by the purchaser.	Analyst experienced a technical difficulty and was unable to give analytical figures.
503a	Small Chocolate Roll	Slightly rancid. Analyst of the opinion that chocolate roll was not of the quality demanded by the purchaser.	Complaint from purchaser. Other chocolate rolls purchased at the same time were satisfactory. Letter to vendor.
504	Corned Beef	Contained a dead fly. Analyst reported that the fly appears to have been embedded and compressed in the meat before sterilisation. He was of the opinion that this sample of corned beef was not of the quality demanded by the purchaser.	Meat canned in Australia. Letter sent to Importers.

	505	Rice	Contained 5 small maggots and 1 small beetle. Analyst of the opinion that sample was not of the quality demanded by the purchaser.	Proceeding authorised. Case proved. Defendants fined £10 with 16/6 costs.
	517	Chile Sauce	Contained benzoic acid to the extent of 450 p.p.m. Addition of benzoic acid to sauce permitted to the extent of 250 p.p.m. providing presence of preservative declared at time of sale. Presence of preservative was not declared.	Formal Sample No. 523 purchased.
523		Chile Sauce	Contained benzoic acid to the extent of 520 p.p.m. Addition of benzoic acid to sauce permitted to the extent of 250 p.p.m. providing presence of preservative declared at time of sale. Presence of preservative was not declared.	Proceedings authorised but were not commenced within 22 months. Vendor notified and advised as to his responsibilities.
	527	Pork Sausage	Contained sulphur dioxide to the extent of 17.3 p.p.m. Sulphur dioxide allowed to be added to the extent of 450 p.p.m. providing presence of preservative declared at the time of sale. Presence of preservative was not declared.	Formal Sample No. 549 purchased.
549		Pork Sausage	Contained sulphur dioxide to the extent of 250 p.p.m. Sulphur dioxide allowed to be added to the extent of 450 p.p.m. providing presence of preservative declared at the time of sale. Presence of preservative was not declared.	Proceedings authorised. Case proved. Defendants fined £55



(D) UNSOUND FOOD

Article of Food	Source of Complaint	Nature of Complaint	Action Taken
Cake	Private individual	Piece of metal in cake	Local manufacturers. No previous complaint, letter sent to manufacturers.
Milk	Private individual	Dirty bottle	Referred to Huntingdonshire County Council in whose area milk was bottled.
Bread	Private individual	Mould	Proceedings instituted against vendors who cross summoned manufacturers. The latter were fined £25. No costs awarded.
Fruit Loaf	Private individual	Mould	Proceedings instituted. Case proved. Defendants granted absolute discharge on payment of costs.
Bread Rolls	Private individual	Mould	Manufacturers pleaded guilty. Fined £10 with £2 costs.
Tin of Blackberries	Private individual	Stalk in blackberries	Manufacturers notified and requested to take greater care.
Milk	Private individual	Glass in bottle	Glass fragment fitted break in bottle and one fragment was adhering to metal foil cap. Would appear to have been damaged in transit. Vendors notified.
Orange Drink	Private individual	Glass in drink	Unsatisfactory evidence. Letter to manufacturers.
Milk	Private individual	Dirty bottle	Referred to Huntingdonshire County Council in whose area milk was bottled.

Cooked Meal	Private individual	Glass in meal	Complaint of glass in meal prepared by wife of complainant. Referred by Police to Health Department. No evidence that glass was in the various foods purchased.
Bread	Private individual	Mould	Mould not noticed on the day of purchase when a portion of the loaf was consumed. Letter to manufacturers.
Cheese	Private individual	Unusual flavour	Manufacturers interviewed. Varying flavours of cheese manufactured at various creameries. No further action.
Bread	Private individual	Insect in bread	Centipede which was alive. Unsatisfactory evidence. No action taken.
Milk	Private individual	Glass in bottle	Investigation carried out. Warning to vendor.
Fruit Cake	Private individual	Mould	Proceedings authorised. Case proved. Defendant fined £5.
Sausage	Private individual	A piece of metal	Appeared to be a copper clip used as a metal tag in Australia. Discussed with importers. Purchaser emigrated to U.S.A. day after purchase.
Jam	Private individual	Unusual taste	Jar half empty. Unsatisfactory evidence. No further action.



(E) DAIRIES AND MILK DISTRIBUTORS

Premises registered as Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	1
Milk Distributors	...	...	...	...	...	96

(F) MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) LICENCES

					No. of Licences
Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...		*94
Tuberculin Tested Milk		...	...		51
Sterilised Milk	...	...	...		36
Total	...	...	...	...	181

\* Includes one pasteurisation plant.

(G) EXAMINATION OF SPECIALLY DESIGNATED MILKS

Designation of Milk	Samples sub- mitted	Methylene Blue Test*		Phosphatase Test		Turbidity Test	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised ...	151	142	7	150	1	—	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	62	54	3	62	—	—	—
Sterilised ...	37			—	—	37	—
Tuberculin Tested (Raw) ..	53	40	10	—	—	—	—

\* The Methylene Blue Test in respect of 2 Pasteurised, 5 Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised), and 3 Tuberculin Tested (Raw) samples was invalid as the atmospheric shade temperature exceeded 65° F.

## (H) SLAUGHTERHOUSES

## (1) Carcasses Inspected and Condemned

## (i) Bedford

	Cattle (exclud- ing cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed and in- spected ... ..	3,534	197	397	9,372	6,419	19,919
<i>All diseases except tuber- culosis and cysticercosis</i> Whole carcasses con- demned ... ..	—	—	3	10	6	19
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	517	15	1	43	463	1039
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis	14.63	7.61	1.01	0.56	7.31	5.27
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i> Whole carcasses con- demned ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	3	2	—	—	104	109
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.08	1.01	—	—	1.61	0.55
<i>Cysticercosis—</i> Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	21	1	—	—	—	22
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refriger- ation ... ..	21	1	—	—	—	22
Generalized and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

In addition one goat was killed and inspected.



## (ii) Kempston

	Cattle (exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed and in- spected ... ..	450	2	—	1221	1012	2685
<i>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticercosis—</i> Whole carcasses con- demned ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	68	1	—	1	71	141
Percentage of num- ber inspected af- fected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysti- cercosis ... ..	15.11	50.00	—	0.09	7.11	5.66
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i> Whole carcasses con- demned ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	14	14
Percentage of num- ber inspected af- fected with tuber- culosis ... ..	—	—	—	—	1.48	0.56
<i>Cysticercosis—</i> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	4	—	—	—	—	4
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	4	—	—	—	—	4
Generalized and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

## (2) Meat Weight Condemned

### (i) Bedford

Class of Animal	Tuberculosis			Other Diseases			Total lbs.
	Whole Carcase	Part Carcase and Offal	lbs.	Whole Carcase	Part Carcase and Offal	lbs.	
Cattle (excluding Cows) ...	—	3	30	—	517	7,025	7,055
Cows ...	—	2	71	—	15	244	315
Calves ...	—	—	—	3	1	85	85
Sheep and Lambs ...	—	—	—	10	43	726	726
Pigs ...	—	104	1,270	6	463	2,242	3,512
Totals ...	—	109	1,371	19	1,039	10,322	11,693

### (ii) Kempston

Class of Animal	Tuberculosis			Other Diseases			Total lbs.
	Whole Carcase	Part Carcase and Offal	lbs.	Whole Carcase	Part Carcase and Offal	lbs.	
Cattle (excluding Cows) ....	—	—	—	—	68	863	863
Cows ....	—	—	—	—	1	15	15
Calves ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheep and Lambs ....	—	—	—	—	1	2	2
Pigs ....	1	14	408	1	71	397	805
Totals ....	1	14	408	1	141	1,277	1,685



(J) OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED

Class of Food	lbs.
Bacon ... ..	9
Bananas ... ..	87
Butter ... ..	56
Cheese ... ..	25
Confectionery ... ..	160
Cooked Meats ... ..	19
Fish ... ..	143
Ice Cream ... ..	108
Imported Meat ... ..	385
Oatmeal ... ..	70
Olives ... ..	28
Poultry ... ..	12
Sausages ... ..	139
Tinned Goods—various commodities (3,540 containers) ...	5,216
Total lbs. ... ..	6,457

**5. Factories Act, 1937**

(A) INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

Premises	No. on Register	No. of inspections	No. of written notices	No. of occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	33	11	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	*256	155	12	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) ...	53	49	1	—
Total ... ..	342	215	13	—

\* Many of these are small factories where only a few persons are employed.

(B) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which proceedings were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ... ..	—	1*	—	—	—
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors...	—	1	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient ... ..	1	—	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	19*	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ... ..	1	—	1	—	—
Total ... ..	13	22	1	4	—

\* Includes notices served during previous year.

(C) OUTWORKERS

Nature of Work (1)	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of work in instances of unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel: Making, etc.	36	—	—	—	—	—
Household linen	5	—	—	—	—	—
Curtain and furniture hangings	1	—	—	—	—	—
Furniture and upholstery ...	2	—	—	—	—	—

There is a NIL return for all other types of outwork.



## 6. Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

### (A) PREMISES INSPECTED AND TREATED

	Type of property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Agricultural	Business	Total
Number of properties inspected on complaint ... ..	21	415	4	87	527
Number of such properties found to be infested with:					
RATS: Major ... ..	1	—	—	—	1
Minor ... ..	15	246	3	58	322
MICE: ... ..	3	87	—	28	118
Number of properties inspected on survey ... ..	3	34	—	12	49
Number of properties found to be infested with:					
RATS: Major ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Minor ... ..	1	19	—	2	22
MICE: ... ..	—	4	—	1	5
Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority ...	20	356	4	89	469
Number of re-visits to infested premises ... ..	80	1,700	20	271	2,071
Number of notices served—					
(i) treatment ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) structural works ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Number of block control schemes carried out ... ..			—		

### (B) SEWER TREATMENTS

Number of manholes baited (Zinc Phosphide) ... ..	213
Number of manholes showing prebait take ... ..	132
Number of manholes showing no take ... ..	81
Number of manholes baited (Sodium Fluoracetate) ... ..	199

## 7. Premises Disinfested

Premises	Nature of Vermin	Number of Premises
Houses—Council ... ..	Bugs	9
	Ants	4
	Wasps	12
	Beetles, etc.	4
Houses—privately owned ... ..	Bugs	2
	Ants	3
	Wasps	27
	Beetles, etc.	20
Business premises ... ..	Bugs	—
	Ants	—
	Wasps	4
	Beetles, etc.	9
Total ... ..		94

## 8. Summary of General Inspections and Administrative Duties

### Housing

Houses inspected under the Housing Act, 1957	...	...	180
Houses totally unfit for human habitation	...	...	133
Premises inspected under the Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	428
Premises where nuisances discovered	...	...	109
Premises where nuisances abated	...	...	75
Revisits to houses under Housing and Public Health Acts	...	...	977

### Overcrowding (not including Houses Let in Lodgings)

Visits	...	...	...	...	17
Houses found to be overcrowded	...	...	...	...	1

### Infectious Diseases

Investigations undertaken	...	...	...	...	414
---------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

### Verminous and other Conditions

Visits to verminous premises	...	...	...	...	95
------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

### Drainage

House drains tested on payment of fee	...	...	...	3
Drains tested or inspected on complaint	...	...	...	183
Revisits during repairs or reconstruction	...	...	...	211

### Visits to

Houses Let in Lodgings	...	...	...	...	1,012
Moveable Dwellings, Caravans, etc.	...	...	...	...	51
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	69



Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	238
Fish Frying Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	950
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Other Shops and Premises where Food is prepared, stored or exposed for sale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,737
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Places of Entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Factories with mechanical power	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	155
Factories without mechanical power	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Work places	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Shops under Section 38, Shops Act, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	92
Premises where animals are kept	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Offensive trade premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Manufacturers and Stores—Rag Flock and other filling materials	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sundry nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	268
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,762

## Food and Drugs

### Samples submitted to Public Analyst :

Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other foods and drugs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	84

### Samples examined by the Public Health Laboratory Service :

Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	303
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50

Total number of samples obtained for examination	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	541
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

## Rats and Mice Destruction

Inspection of premises by Public Health Inspectors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	186
Inspection of premises by Rodent Operators	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	576
Visits for treatment, including revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,540

## Rent Restriction Act

Interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Inspections for Certificates of Disrepair, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23

## Smoke Abatement

Observations made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Interviews with managers, stokers, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Inspection of boiler plants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Smoke Control Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,673
Atmospheric pollution apparatus—Recordings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	827

## General and Office Routine

Visits for interviews with owners, agents, builders, tenants, etc. ... ..	366
Interviews at office with owners, agents, builders, tenants, etc. ... ..	429
Attendances at magistrates' courts ... ..	13

## General Administration

	Informal	Formal
Notices served :		
Housing Act ... ..	2	12
Public Health Act ... ..	109	60
Shops Act ... ..	—	—
Factories Act ... ..	13	—
Food Hygiene Regulations ... ..	25	—
Clean Air Act ... ..	—	—
Total number of notices served ...	149	72

## 9. Detailed Nature of Work carried out as Result of Notices

### (A) DWELLINGHOUSES

#### General Improvements

Defective roofs repaired or renewed ... ..	28
Eaves, gutters and downspouts repaired or renewed ... ..	18
Damp walls remedied ... ..	22
Defective walls, brickwork and pointing made sound ... ..	20
Rooms cleansed and redecorated ... ..	19
Defective floors repaired or renewed ... ..	5
Defective windows repaired or renewed ... ..	40
Defective doors repaired or renewed ... ..	6
Defective firegrates repaired or renewed ... ..	1
Glazed sinks provided in lieu of defective sinks ... ..	1
Sinks and waste pipes repaired or renewed ... ..	4
Chimney heads or pots repaired or renewed ... ..	7
Defective ceilings made sound ... ..	12

#### Water Closets

Structural works undertaken ... ..	1
Pedestal pans provided in lieu of defective pans ... ..	6
Fittings repaired or renewed ... ..	16

#### Yards

Houses at which paving was repaired or renewed ... ..	1
Sanitary dustbins provided ... ..	5



(B) OTHER HOUSING ACCOMMODATION

**Houses Let in Lodgings**

Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Rent books supplied	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

(C) FOOD PREMISES

**Food Preparing Rooms**

General cleansing and redecoration	...	...	...	...	...	18
Washbasins provided	...	...	...	...	...	14
W.C. compartments cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hot water supply provided	...	...	...	...	...	16
Clothing lockers provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Benches provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Artificial lighting provided to W.C. compartments	...	...	...	...	...	4
"Now wash your hands . . ." notices provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Soap, towels and nail brushes provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	5

(D) OTHER PREMISES

**Factories**

Sanitary accommodation requirements complied with :							
(a) Provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(b) Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	2





REPORT  
ON THE  
School Health Service  
For the Year 1961

Telephone Nos. :  
Bedford 68777 and 2261.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
4 GOLDINGTON ROAD,  
BEDFORD.

*TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS  
OF THE COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION.*

The medical staff remained unchanged during the year.

The nursing staff was reorganised so that whereas prior to delegation one full-time and two part-time nurses were employed, in 1961, after delegation, three full-time nurses were employed.

The problem of giving a satisfactory dental service remains. At present there is one dentist working eight sessions per week. Of 4,825 children inspected, 2,521 were found to require treatment and, of these, 942 received treatment. Naturally, some of those not treated by the School Health Service would have obtained treatment from private dentists, but this does not provide the complete answer, because of the difficulties many parents have in securing appointments for their children.

The service is responsible for twenty-six schools, with a total population of 8,269 (at January, 1962). All schools were visited during the year. In addition, the Health Department gave B.C.G. and polio-myelitis vaccinations to most of the private schools.

The year was uneventful so far as infectious diseases were concerned, though a measles epidemic did affect many of the younger children at the end of the year. Work was continued to maintain as high an immunity as possible against diphtheria and poliomyelitis. The Government requested that school children be given a fourth injection of polio vaccine before the summer holidays, and this was done, though it caused considerable strain on the department during the schools' summer term. Nearly all schools gave every co-operation in this work. Immunisation against tetanus is now being offered to all infants and, in due course, we will be including this in the booster injections given to all school children. B.C.G. vaccination is also offered to school leavers.

Questions were asked in Council about publicity given to the need for immunisation. It might be pointed out here, that parents are informed of the need for, and given a special opportunity to accept, immunisation on a minimum of three occasions during school life, this is in addition to the propaganda given during infancy.

As a result of early detection and prevention and more satisfactory treatment the physical health of school children has improved to a state where more time should be given to their mental health. With the increase in awareness and knowledge of social and emotional problems, much can be done to prevent development of delinquency, mental instability and inadequate parents. It was with this in mind, and the examples of a number of other local authorities, that an effort was made to alter the method of medical examinations in order to bring them in line with present-day needs. Parents were to be asked to complete a questionnaire and state if they had any problems they wished to discuss



regarding their child's health or welfare. The completed questionnaires are providing useful knowledge, and provide a vehicle for information for immunisation procedures.

Following requests made by Head Teachers during last year, immigrant school entrants are seen as soon as possible after their arrival in Bedford. Generally their health and condition gives no cause for concern, though a very small core of families remain persistently dirty.

I wish to thank my Deputy, Dr. P. Lavis, and Dr. A. Harries and Dr. M. Scott-Clarke for their services and the Head Teachers for their help and co-operation throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

CLIVE L. SHARP,

*School Medical Officer.*

# Annual Report on the work of the School Health Service

## I. GENERAL STATISTICS

The following table shows the number of children attending the 24 school departments in the area of the Borough of Bedford at the beginning of January, 1962 :—

Type of School					No. of Schools	No. on Roll
Nursery	...	...	...	...	1	43
Infant	...	...	...	...	8	1,678
Primary Junior Mixed	...	...	...	...	6	2,299
Primary Junior Mixed and Infant	...	...	...	...	3	1,523
*Secondary Modern	...	...	...	...	6	2,726
					<hr/> 24	<hr/> 8,269
*Mixed	...	...	...	...	4	
Boys	...	...	...	...	1	
Girls	...	...	...	...	1	

It will be noted that the number of children in the schools has increased from 7,992 at the beginning of January, 1961, to 8,269 at the beginning of 1962.

The number of foreign children in attendance at Borough schools at week ended the 18th December, 1960 was 1,014 and 1,305 in 1961 at the 20th December.

### Scope of Medical Inspection

The following figures show the numbers inspected during the year under review as compared with the previous year :—

	1960	1961
Inspections in prescribed groups	2,213	2,504
Special inspections at schools	203	33
Special inspections at clinics	182	187
Re-inspections	377	467

There has been little change in the numbers attending for special purposes at the clinics, and these attendances are mainly limited to special services such as investigations for educational subnormality or child guidance.

## II. MEDICAL TREATMENT

General arrangements continued as in previous years.

There are still two school clinics for the general use of children attending schools in the Borough, namely 30 Bromham Road (transferred to new premises at Union Street in 1962) for the schools north of the river, and 29 Barford Avenue for schools south of the river; and for certain purposes, children in the Borough also attend the clinic at



3 St. Peter's Street. The work carried out at these clinics may be given in summary form as follows : —

<i>Location of Clinic</i>	<i>Time of Session</i>	<i>Work carried out</i>
30 Bromham Road ...	<p>Tuesdays and Thursdays in term time, 9 - 9.30 a.m.</p> <p>Friday afternoons at 2.30 p.m.</p> <p>Approx. eight sessions weekly</p> <p>As required</p> <p>As required</p> <p>As required</p>	<p>Treatment of minor ailments by School Nurse.</p> <p>Consultations by School Medical Officer.</p> <p>Treatment by School Dental Officer.</p> <p>Diphtheria immunisation.</p> <p>Poliomyelitis vaccination.</p> <p>B.C.G. vaccination.</p>
29 Barford Avenue ...	<p>Tuesdays and Thursdays in term time, 9 - 9.30 a.m.</p> <p>Tuesday mornings at 10.15 a.m.</p> <p>As required</p> <p>As required</p> <p>As required</p> <p>Tuesday and Friday afternoons</p> <p>Tuesday afternoons</p>	<p>Treatment of minor ailments by School Nurse.</p> <p>Consultations by School Medical Officer.</p> <p>Diphtheria immunisation.</p> <p>Poliomyelitis vaccination.</p> <p>B.C.G. vaccination.</p> <p>Ultra violet light treatment..</p> <p>Speech therapy.</p>
3 St. Peter's Street ...	Mondays and Wednesdays	Speech therapy.
Putnoe ... ..	Tuesday afternoons	Speech Therapy (from September).

Borough children are treated with County children for orthoptic treatment and child guidance.

Children with defective vision are referred by arrangement to Dr. H. Bentley, Ophthalmic Surgeon.

### III. CONDITIONS FOUND ON INSPECTION

#### General

The general health of the schoolchildren remained satisfactory. The parents as a whole were eager to seek advice whether from the family doctor or from the School Health Service.

## Nutrition and General Physique

The generally good standard of nutrition and physique has been maintained.

I am indebted to the Education Officer for the following figures relating to school milk and meals : —

### RETURNS MADE TO MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Date of Return	Milk		Meals		
	No. receiving milk	Percentage receiving milk	No. receiving meals	No. (included in previous column) receiving meals free of charge	Percentage receiving meals
September, 1961	6,102	79.64	4,365	222	56.97
October, 1960 (for comparison)	5,901	82.68	3,969	248	55.61

## Uncleanliness

The number of children found unclean, that is with nits or lice in their hair, was 117 in 1960, and 94 in 1961.

All too often the same families are the source of infection, and in some cases this reflects the poor standards of home care coupled with an inability or unwillingness to co-operate in the necessary measures of control. Mainly because of this it was necessary to clean 7 children at the Borough Cleansing Station.

## Minor Ailments

### *General*

The following statement shows the number of attendances at the school clinics : —

	1960	1961
Attendances ... ..	134	202
Number of individual children attending ...	92	169

### *Ringworm*

No cases of ringworm were discovered.

### *Scabies*

No cases were discovered.

### *Impetigo*

This contagious and troublesome disease, which causes yellow crusts usually on the face, caused 62 cases. Lack of proper care and treatment was probably responsible for some of the spreading of this disease as there are effective treatments available, if the parents apply that prescribed.



## Hospital Treatment

### *General*

Hospital treatment generally is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board. Some institutions which rank as schools or convalescent homes do not come under the hospital scheme and children may be sent to such institutions at the expense of the local education authority.

### *Tonsils and Adenoids and Allied Conditions*

During the year, 5 children were referred for consultation on these conditions to the Ear, Nose and Throat Department of the Bedford General Hospital. In a number of other cases arrangements for treatment had already been made before entry to school, or after entry, independently of the School Health Service. 73 children had treatment during the year, of whom 63 were referred for treatment before 1960.

Apart from cases where deafness or ear disease appeared to be associated with diseased tonsils and adenoids, five children were referred to hospital for deafness or ear disease.

As before, children are kept under periodic review when it is thought that the condition may settle down in time without the necessity of hospital treatment.

The possibility of risk in connection with tonsillectomy during the prevalence of poliomyelitis in the area is borne in mind and necessary steps are taken against this if the occasion arises.

## IV. INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### **Measles**

During the year, 684 children of school age were notified as suffering from this disease.

### **Scarlet Fever**

It is known that 17 cases occurred amongst schoolchildren during the year.

### **Diphtheria**

No case of diphtheria occurred amongst schoolchildren in the area.

### **Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis**

Not one case of poliomyelitis was notified during the year in a child of school age.

### **Diphtheria Immunisation**

The scheme relating to diphtheria immunisation generally works well. It depends for its efficient working on the co-operation of the Head Teachers.

The following table shows the number of children of 5 to 15 years of age who were immunised during 1961.

				Received Full Course	Received "Booster" Dose
First quarter	...	...	...	85	131
Second quarter	...	...	...	47	116

Third quarter	...	...	...	71	419
Fourth quarter	...	...	...	30	234

It is estimated that 70 per cent of all children of school age have received a full course or re-inforcing injections.

### Poliomyelitis Vaccination

The vaccination of children continued during the year, and many received a third injection, in accordance with the recommendation of the Ministry of Health, approximately seven months after the second injection was given.

The following figures show the extent of vaccination undertaken in Bedford in children born between 1943 and 1959 inclusive (the figure is that returned to the Ministry of Health for 1961, and is the nearest one to the school age which is readily accessible).

Number of persons who have received a fourth injection during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,102
Number of persons who had received a third injection during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,179
Number of persons who had received two injections	...	...	...	...	...	...	933

(Note: Some of these will have received a third injection during the year and may also be included in the above figure).

### B.C.G. Vaccination

B.C.G. vaccination is available to all children of 13 years of age. A = Schoolchildren's Scheme (i.e. up to 14 years and 14 years and upwards still at school); B = Students. The following table shows the work carried out during the year:—

Initial Heaf Test						B.C.G. Vaccination		Referred to Chest Clinic					
No. tested		No. found to be positive and referred to Chest Clinic		No. found to be negative		No. vaccinated		No evidence of pulmonary tuberculosis		Failed to attend for X-ray examination		To be kept under observation	
A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
623	—	116	—	485	—	485	—	112	—	3	—	1	—

The differences in the figures are accounted for by absence from school.

Positive cases are referred to the Bedford General Hospital for a chest X-ray examination and negative cases receive protection with the B.C.G. vaccine.



## Tuberculin Testing

The object of this test is to ascertain, as soon as children enter upon the wider contacts of school life, whether there is reason to suppose by their giving a positive reaction to tuberculin that they have been in contact, in the smaller world of the family which they have just left, with any infectious case of tuberculosis. Those children who give a positive reaction to the test are referred to the Chest Clinic for confirmation of the positive findings and if the positive reaction is confirmed by more exact tests investigation can be made among family contacts with a view to discovering hitherto undiscovered cases of active tuberculosis. The whole purpose of the scheme is therefore to ascertain and secure treatment for active cases of tuberculosis at the earliest possible moment.

Consent given	...	...	...	...	...	...	832
Consent not given	...	...	...	...	...	...	124*

\* Of this number 34 had either been tested previously, received B.C.G. vaccination or were under observation at the Chest Clinic.

Number of children tested	...	...	...	...	697
Number found to be negative	...	...	...	...	664
Number found to be positive	...	...	...	...	33
Absent from school at time of test	...	...	...	...	105
Left district	...	...	...	...	30

## V. SPECIAL FORMS OF TREATMENT

### Ultra Violet Light Treatment

Sessions for ultra violet light treatment recommenced in January, 1960 at the clinic at 29 Barford Avenue, and children from schools both sides of the river now attend there for treatment.

The following tables show the number of children treated at the clinic and the conditions treated : —

Number of individual children treated	...	...	...	14
Number of attendances made by children for treatment	...	...	...	80
No. of sessions held	...	...	...	35

Condition for which treatment was given	No. of children treated
Diseases of the ear, nose and throat	...
General debility and miscellaneous conditions	...

### Orthopaedic and Postural Defects

Treatment for such minor conditions as bad posture, flat feet and knock knee of slight degree is undertaken at the Bedford College of Physical Education. During the year, 22 children were referred for treatment.

Children requiring more special treatment or advice are referred to the Orthopaedic Department at the Bedford General Hospital. Six children were so referred.

### Speech Therapy

During the year, 50 children received treatment from the Speech Therapist.

### Handicapped Children

Children from the area of the Borough who require special educational treatment on account of some physical handicap, some defect in the sense organs or mental retardation, are usually dealt with directly by the County Education Committee and are included in the figures given by the Principal School Medical Officer.

### Disability of Mind

During the year, 63 children were examined from the Borough schools, including private schools, and diagnosis and recommendations are shown in the following table :—

Educationally subnormal	...	...	...	...	...	17
Educationally subnormal and maladjusted	...	...	...	...	...	5
Maladjusted	...	...	...	...	...	26
For re-examination later. Formal decision deferred	...	...	...	...	...	3
Unsuitable for education at school	...	...	...	...	...	7
No disability of mind	...	...	...	...	...	5

These children were referred for examination as follows :—

Examined at request of—

Head Teacher	...	...	...	...	...	35
Family Doctor	...	...	...	...	...	7
Parent	...	...	...	...	...	9
School Welfare Officer	...	...	...	...	...	5
Probation Officer	...	...	...	...	...	1
School Medical Officer	...	...	...	...	...	1
Health Visitor	...	...	...	...	...	3
Speech Therapist	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chief Executive Officer—Dr. Barnardo's Homes	...	...	...	...	...	1

At the end of the year, 20 children were resident at St. Margaret's School, Great Gaddesden, which is under the control of the Bedfordshire County Council and is for educationally subnormal children.

Maladjusted children are usually referred to the Child Guidance Clinic, and details are given in the report of the Principal School Medical Officer. Four children received treatment during the year at the Hostel for Maladjusted Children, "Heathwood," Leighton Buzzard, and three at other institutions.



Category	Attending Special Boarding Schools	Attending a small private school under arrange- ments made by the Authority	Receiving educa- tion at home under Section 56 of the Education Act, 1944	At St. John's Day Nursery by special arrange- ment
Blind ... ..	1	—	—	2
Partially sighted ... ..	2	—	1	—
Deaf ... ..	3	—	—	—
Partially deaf ... ..	4	—	—	—
Delicate ... ..	5	2	1	—
Maladjusted ... ..	7	6	—	—
Physically handicapped ...	3	2	3	—
Speech defects ... ..	—	—	1	—

### Treatment in Convalescent Homes and other Institutions

Children who suffer from more or less indefinite forms of ill-health are sent to convalescent homes at the expense of the Local Education Authority for periods of usually a few weeks, and often receive great benefit from such treatment.

One boy of 13 was sent away for debility and was withdrawn from home by parent after three weeks.

One boy of 4 was sent away for four weeks for debility.

Five other children received treatment for more definite diseases at special institutions.

Ten children, for whom this treatment seemed best, received education at a private school at the Local Education Authority's expense.

## VI. DENTAL TREATMENT

The arrangements for dental treatment remained the same. Mr. F. Brabington-Perry, School Dental Surgeon, gives approximately eight sessions a week to the inspection and treatment of Borough children. A number of children, it must be remembered, receive treatment under the provisions of the National Health Service Act independently of the School Health Service.

## VII. MISCELLANEOUS

### Screening for Partial Deafness

If a baby cannot hear properly it will fail to learn to speak properly and may give the appearance of mental retardation. For this reason

health visitors have been trained in testing infants for hearing defects, if there is any doubt further testing is then arranged.

If a mother suspects deafness in a child she should contact her nearest child welfare centre or this department for the test to be carried out. Repeated testing may be necessary in some cases to be sure. The earlier the diagnosis is made the better. Very few children are totally deaf and individual home teaching by a specially trained teacher of the deaf and the provision of a suitable hearing aid can be of great help.

The department also has the part-time service of an audiometrician who has the necessary equipment which produces sounds of varying intensity over the full range of frequencies involved in understanding speech.

Early diagnosis is the key to successful treatment. Audiology units for partially deaf children are now operating successfully in infant and junior schools and a unit has been approved for Bedford.

### **Bed Wetting**

Many children suffer from this distressing condition and in the past have had a variety of forms of treatment, which have been attended with a modicum of success. In general most of them have no illness to account for the condition and it is a failure in the development of control. Quite often there is a family history of slowness in gaining control.

Sometimes nervousness and bad management have delayed this process and these cases respond rapidly to suggestion, or, in some cases, the combination of suggestion with varying forms of drug treatment and advice on management to the parent. Punishment is, of course, useless in such cases and does harm by making the child more nervous.

More recently, an electrical device, which wakes the child up with a loud buzzer immediately he passes a drop of urine, has been tried out and despite considerable doubt expressed by various people as to its efficiency and mode of action, it has been possible to clear up a number of long standing cases of enuresis with this apparatus when other methods had failed.

It should, however, be used with discretion, as a child's bed wetting may be symptomatic of bad management and problems within the home setting. Each case should be carefully reviewed to eliminate other factors before the apparatus is utilised.

At present there is a waiting list, which is tending to get longer as more cases come to our notice.

### **Medical Examination of Candidates for Admission to Training Colleges and to the Teaching Profession**

During the year, 25 students applying for admission to Training Colleges were medically examined. An X-ray examination of the chest is arranged where it is considered desirable.



Twenty-one candidates for entrance to the teaching profession were examined. An X-ray examination of the chest is required in all these cases.

**Employment of Children Byelaws**

285 children were medically examined in 1960.

**VIII. THE GRANGE SCHOOL**

The lack of a day school to deal with educationally subnormal children and the lack of special facilities within ordinary schools for those educationally retarded, but not suffering from much, if any, mental retardation, were the subjects of repeated reports on individual children to the Divisional Executive Committee for Education. Members of this Committee pressed strongly for these facilities.

For years children have been reported by head teachers, innumerable forms completed, and month after month the Committee had the School Medical Officer's recommendation "special school when available", on the assumption that eventually a day special school would become available.

The building commenced during 1961 was completed in 1962.

Special educational facilities which are required in any area where there is a substantial school population (e.g. Bedford Borough and surrounding area) are as follows : —

Need				Provision
Special day school for educationally subnormal children	...	...		The Grange, Kempston.
Special residential school for educationally subnormal children	...	...		St. Margaret's, Gt. Gaddesden, Herts.
Special remedial teaching	...	...		Arrangements in hand.
Unit for partially deaf children	...	...		Unit approved.
Home tuition	...	...	...	Home teachers available, but intermittent staff shortages.
Specialist school (blind, deaf, etc.)	...	...	...	In other areas—as local need does not justify a local school.

**IX. CONCLUSION**

There is no material change to report in the general work of the School Health Service, and the physical health of the children is generally well maintained.

My thanks are due to the members of former Bedford Divisional Executive, to the members of the Committee for Education of the Borough of Bedford, for their help and sympathy in the work, and to my staff and to the Heads of all Schools in the Borough for their co-operation in the work.

## X. STATISTICAL TABLES

TABLE I—MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED  
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (INCLUDING NURSERY AND SPECIAL  
SCHOOLS)

### (a) *Periodic Medical Inspections*

Age Groups Inspected (by year of birth)	No. of Pupils Inspected	Physical Condition of Pupils Inspected			
		Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
		No.	% of Col. 2	No.	% of Col. 2
1957 and later ... ..	137	137	100.0	—	—
1956 ... ..	734	731	99.6	3	0.4
1955 ... ..	220	219	99.5	1	0.5
1954 ... ..	63	63	100.0	—	—
1953 ... ..	18	18	100.0	—	—
1952 ... ..	4	4	100.0	—	—
1951 ... ..	69	69	100.0	—	—
1950 ... ..	460	457	99.3	3	0.7
1949 ... ..	205	204	99.5	1	0.5
1948 ... ..	1	1	100.0	—	—
1947 ... ..	36	36	100.0	—	—
1946 and earlier ... ..	557	554	99.5	3	0.5
Totals ... ..	2504	2493	99.6	11	0.4

### (b) *Other Inspections*

	1959	1960	1961
Number of Special Inspections ...	169	385	220
Number of Re-Inspections ... ..	400	377	467
Totals ... ..	569	762	687



(c) *Pupils Found to Require Treatment*

Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to Require Treatment (excluding Dental Disease and Infestation with Vermin).

Age Group Inspected (by year of birth)	For defective vision (excluding squint)	For any other conditions recorded in Table III	Total individual pupils
1957 and later ...	—	15	13
1956 ... ..	10	55	64
1955 ... ..	3	27	29
1954 ... ..	2	2	4
1953 ... ..	—	—	—
1952 ... ..	—	—	—
1951 ... ..	1	5	5
1950 ... ..	33	40	67
1949 ... ..	20	22	40
1948 ... ..	—	—	—
1947 ... ..	5	4	9
1946 and earlier ...	46	40	84
Totals ... ..	120	210	315

TABLE II—INFESTATION WITH VERMIN

	1959	1960	1961
(1) Total number of individual examinations in schools by school nurses ... ..	17,304	19,394	20,763
(2) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested ... ..	134	117	94
(3) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2), Education Act, 1944) ... ..	—	—	—
(4) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54(3), Education Act, 1944) ... ..	—	—	—

TABLE III—NUMBER OF DEFECTS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT OR OBSERVATION AT MEDICAL INSPECTIONS DURING 1960

(a) *Periodic Inspections*

Defect or Disease	Periodic Inspections							
	Entrants		Leavers		Others		Total	
	(T)	(O)	(T)	(O)	(T)	(O)	(T)	(O)
Skin ... ..	12	10	14	10	12	8	38	28
Eyes—								
(a) Vision ... ..	15	65	51	—	54	41	120	106
(b) Squint ... ..	11	6	3	—	6	8	20	14
(c) Other ... ..	5	3	2	2	3	2	10	7
Ears—								
(a) Hearing ... ..	15	11	2	3	2	—	19	14
(b) Otitis Media ... ..	3	6	1	2	2	3	6	11
(c) Other ... ..	—	—	3	—	3	1	6	1
Nose and Throat ...	15	42	1	4	4	17	20	63
Speech ... ..	15	13	—	—	2	1	17	14
Lymphatic Glands ...	2	4	—	—	—	—	2	4
Heart ... ..	2	15	1	5	1	6	4	26
Lungs ... ..	4	15	—	2	3	13	7	30
Developmental—								
(a) Hernia ... ..	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	2
(b) Other ... ..	4	7	—	3	5	9	9	19
Orthopaedic—								
(a) Posture ... ..	—	8	4	3	3	5	7	16
(b) Feet ... ..	10	34	9	12	9	6	28	52
(c) Other ... ..	1	24	2	3	4	4	7	31
Nervous System—								
(a) Epilepsy ... ..	—	2	—	—	—	3	—	5
(b) Other ... ..	—	11	—	1	1	1	1	13
Psychological—								
(a) Development ... ..	—	14	—	—	—	7	—	21
(b) Stability ... ..	3	17	—	—	5	6	8	23
Abdomen ... ..	3	14	1	3	2	2	6	19
Other ... ..	5	13	4	5	3	6	12	24
Totals ... ..	125	335	98	58	125	150	348	543

T = Treatment.

O = Observation.



(b) *Special Inspections*

Defect or Disease	Special Inspections	
	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation
Skin ... ..	18	2
Eyes—		
(a) Vision ... ..	13	14
(b) Squint ... ..	3	—
(c) Other ... ..	1	2
Ears—		
(a) Hearing ... ..	1	—
(b) Otitis Media ... ..	—	—
(c) Other ... ..	—	—
Nose and Throat ... ..	—	—
Speech ... ..	1	—
Lymphatic Glands ... ..	1	—
Heart ... ..	—	—
Lungs ... ..	—	—
Developmental—		
(a) Hernia ... ..	—	—
(b) Other ... ..	2	—
Orthopaedic—		
(a) Posture ... ..	—	—
(b) Feet ... ..	—	—
(c) Other ... ..	3	1
Nervous System—		
(a) Epilepsy ... ..	—	—
(b) Other ... ..	16	1
Psychological—		
(a) Development ... ..	40	6
(b) Stability ... ..	23	—
Abdomen ... ..	—	—
Other ... ..	43	12

TABLE IV—TREATMENT OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Group 1—*Eye Disease, Defective Vision and Squint*

	No. of cases dealt with by the Authority		
	1959	1960	1961
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint ... ..	9	6	27
Errors of refraction (including squint)	223	290	331
Totals ... ..	232	296	358
Number of pupils for whom spectacles were prescribed ... ..	114	130	176

Group 2—*Diseases and Defects of Ear, Nose and Throat*

	No. of cases known to have been dealt with		
	1959	1960	1961
Received operative treatment—			
(a) for diseases of the ear ... ..	—	—	—
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis ... ..	13	81	73
(c) for other nose and throat conditions ... ..	—	—	—
Received other forms of treatment ...	13	6	—
Totals ... ..	26	87	73

Group 3—*Orthopaedic and Postural Defects*

	1959	1960	1961
Number of pupils known to have been treated at clinics or out-patient departments ... ..	81	42	28



Group 4—*Diseases of the Skin (excluding uncleanness, for which see Table II)*

	No. of cases treated or under treatment during the year by the Authority		
	1959	1960	1961
Ringworm—			
(a) Scalp     ...     ...     ...     ...	—	—	—
(b) Body     ...     ...     ...     ...	—	—	—
Scabies     ...     ...     ...     ...	—	—	—
Impetigo     ...     ...     ...     ...	1	21	62
Other skin diseases     ...     ...     ...	2	14	1
Total     ...     ...     ...     ...	3	35	63

Group 5—*Speech Therapy*

	No. of cases treated by the Authority		
	1959	1960	1961
Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapist     ...     ...     ...     ...	33	40	50

Group 6—*Other Treatment Given*

	No. of cases treated by the Authority		
	1959	1960	1961
Pupils with minor ailments     ...     ...	49	92	169

TABLE V—DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

Number of pupils inspected by the Dental Officer—						
(a)	at Periodic Inspections	...	...	...	...	4,463
(b)	at Specials	...	...	...	...	362
Total						4,825
Number found to require treatment						2,521
Number offered treatment						2,513
Number actually treated						942
Number of attendances made by pupils for treatment (including orthodontics)						1,786
Half-days devoted to—						
(a)	Inspection	...	...	...	...	33
(b)	Treatment	...	...	...	...	345
Total						378
Fillings—						
(a)	Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	638
(b)	Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	412
Total						1,050
Number of Teeth filled—						
(a)	Permanent	...	...	...	...	607
(b)	Temporary	...	...	...	...	390
Total						997
Extractions—						
(a)	Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	120
(b)	Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	907
Total						1,027
Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction						44
Number of pupils supplied with artificial teeth						—
Other operations—						
(a)	Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	259
(b)	Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	69
Total						328